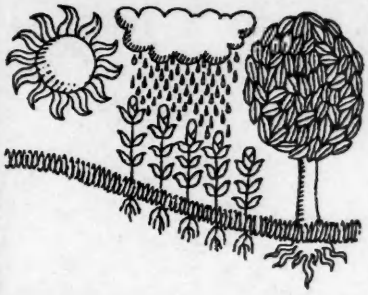

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service and World Agricultural Outlook Board

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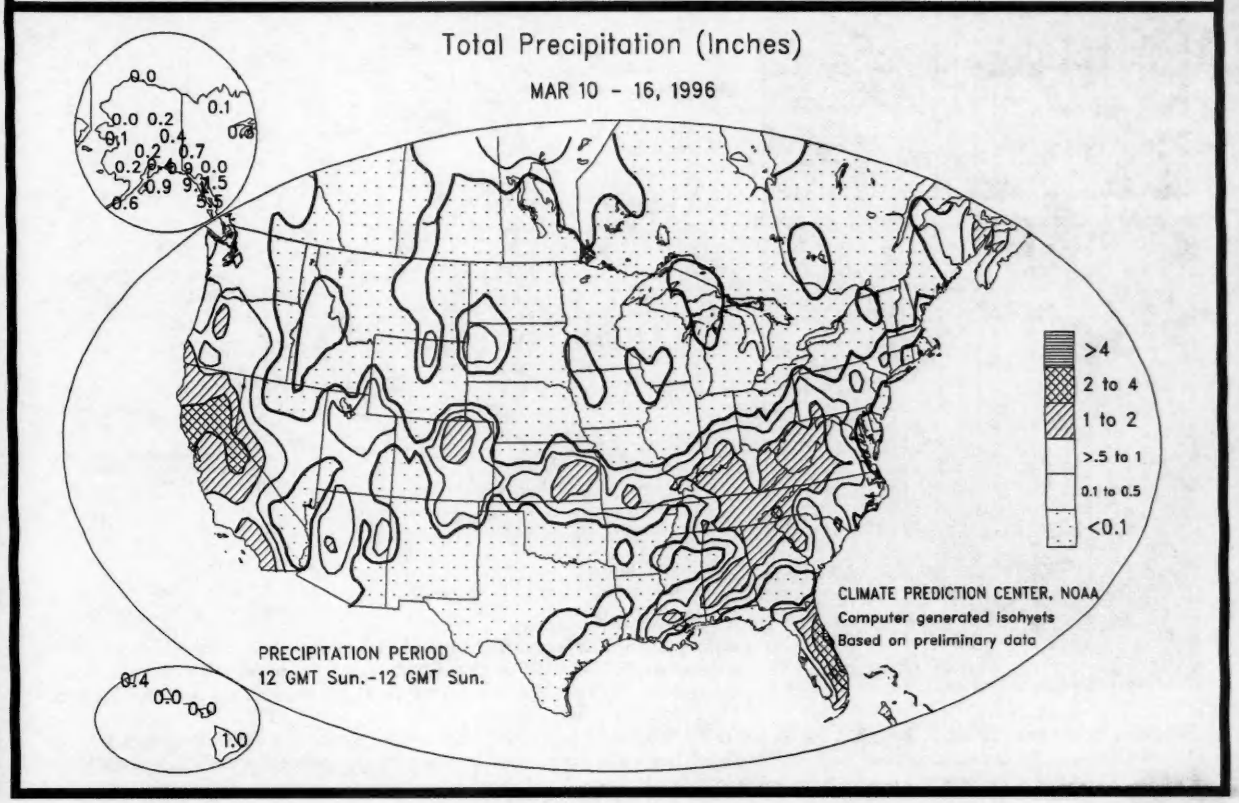

HIGHLIGHTS

March 10 - 16, 1996

Urgently needed rain fell across **southern Kansas** and **northern Oklahoma**, improving prospects for winter wheat. In combination with the moisture, warmth promoted wheat development. Dryness persisted through week's end, however, across the remainder of **Oklahoma** and **Texas**. Meanwhile in **California**, showery weather subsided by midweek, replaced by warm, dry conditions. Farther east, an early-week coastal storm lashed **eastern Florida** with heavy rain and high winds. Rain overspread much of the **East** toward week's end.

Arctic high pressure lingered over the **East** early in the week, setting an additional five dozen daily records. On Sunday, lows dipped below

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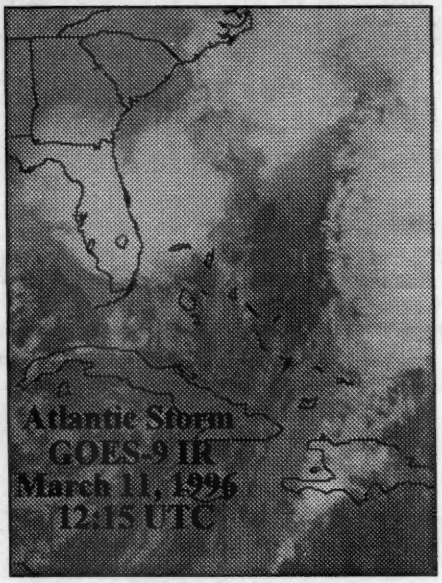
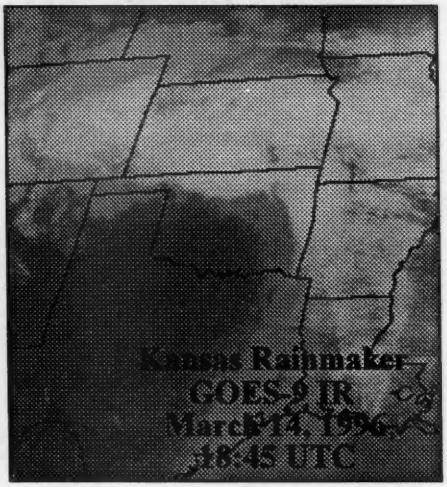
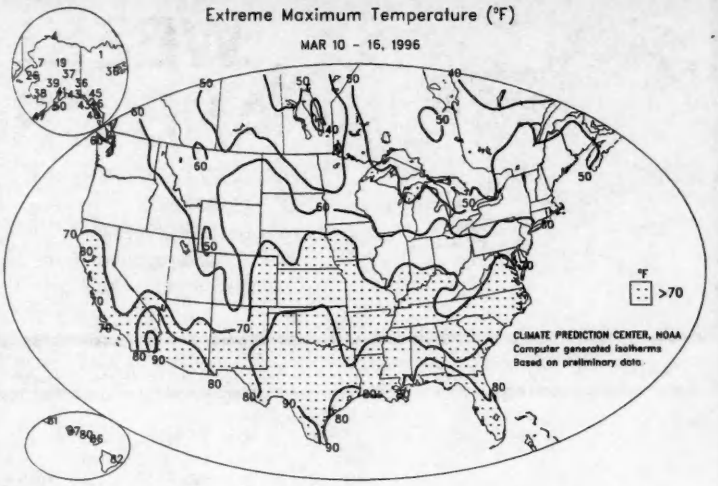
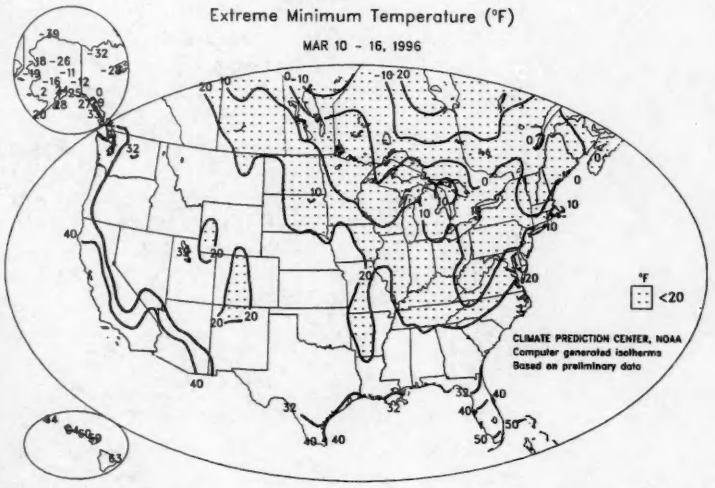








(Continued from front cover)

zero as far south as **Scranton, PA** (-1°F). Farther south, daily records included 6°F in **Charleston, WV** and 26°F in **Lake Charles, LA**. The barometric pressure reached a March-record 30.95 inches at **Washington's National Airport**. On Tuesday, **Meridian, MS** notched their last of four consecutive daily records (18, 22, 23, and 27°F), while **Asheville, NC** marked their last of five (12, 8, 10, 16, and 18°F). Meanwhile, high winds and heavy surf pounded the **South Atlantic States**. On Monday, **Hatteras, NC** clocked a northerly wind gust to 44 mph. Heavy rain was confined to **eastern Florida**, where Monday's daily-record totals included 5.24 inches in **Melbourne** and 3.55 inches in **Daytona Beach**.

Due to rapid warming, spring snow-melt and ice-jam flooding commenced in the **North-Central States**. On Tuesday, **International Falls, MN** tallied a daily-record high of 56°F. Farther south, midweek highs reached 85°F as far north as **Lawton, OK**, and soared to daily-record levels in locations such as **Webster City, IA** (71°F) and **Hastings, NE** (73°F). In contrast, snowfall in **Flagstaff, AZ** totaled 8.0 inches on March 12-13, while more than an inch of rain fell across much of **northern and central California**.

After midweek, storminess emerged from the **Southwest** and squeezed into a narrow belt across **Kansas** and **Oklahoma**. Thursday's 1.09-inch rainfall in **Wichita, KS** represented nearly 85 percent of their year-to-date total. Despite a 0.58-inch total in **Topeka, KS**, rainfall since October 1 reached only 2.97 inches, about 30 percent of normal. Severe thunderstorms in **Oklahoma** produced three tornadoes and accounted for more than half of the day's nearly 50 reports of 1 inch, or larger, hail. Upslope flow brought wet snow to the **central High Plains** on Thursday, with totals in **Colorado** reaching 5.9 inches in **Denver** and 3.5 inches in **Colorado Springs**. Meanwhile, the **Texas plains'** dry spell reached 23 weeks, accompanied by warm weather and frequent wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph.

Toward week's end, rain shifted into the **East**, totaling more than an inch in locations such as **Evansville, IN, Huntington, WV**, and **Greenville-Spartanburg, SC**. More than a half-dozen tornadic thunderstorms swept through the **Southeast** on Saturday, including four in **Tennessee**. Meanwhile, warmth overspread the **Northwest**, boosting highs on Friday to daily-record levels in **Sheridan, WY** (70°F) and **Williston, ND** (67°F). A day later, **Shelter Cove, CA** registered 81°F, their third consecutive daily record. Above-normal temperatures also encompassed **southern Alaska**, but were accompanied by heavy precipitation. **Yakutat** collected 9.72 inches during the week.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 16, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	68	39	78	21	53	0	0.00	-1.43	0.00	6.77	212	19.45	148	81	31	0	3	0	0
MOBILE	70	45	81	26	57	-3	0.00	-1.49	0.00	0.58	17	11.22	81	82	34	0	2	0	0
MONTGOMERY	68	41	79	26	54	-1	0.00	-1.45	0.00	4.77	145	15.99	116	78	36	0	2	0	0
AK ANCHORAGE	37	28	41	24	33	8	0.41	0.24	0.18	0.41	108	2.93	149	77	63	0	5	4	0
BARROW	-16	-31	-4	-39	-23	-8	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.04	67	0.15	50	76	69	0	7	0	0
FAIRBANKS	25	2	37	-11	14	4	0.43	0.35	0.28	0.47	247	2.20	200	86	51	0	7	3	0
JUNEAU	41	34	46	29	37	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	98	85	0	3	-	-
KODIAK	44	31	50	28	37	5	0.94	-0.12	0.54	1.18	48	6.11	40	90	51	0	6	4	1
NOME	15	-8	26	-19	3	-5	0.10	-0.01	0.09	0.18	72	3.10	186	77	55	0	7	2	0
AZ PHOENIX	74	53	86	49	63	2	0.55	0.33	0.32	0.55	110	1.81	96	67	20	0	0	2	0
PRESCOTT	61	35	72	29	48	6	0.43	0.00	0.43	0.43	43	1.48	36	74	31	0	2	1	0
TUCSON	74	47	87	40	60	2	0.32	0.15	0.32	0.32	84	1.13	58	57	15	0	0	1	0
YUMA	78	54	86	50	66	1	0.43	0.37	0.43	0.43	331	0.61	87	64	21	0	0	1	0
AR FORT SMITH	65	36	75	20	51	0	0.00	-0.90	0.00	0.01	1	4.42	67	80	35	0	2	0	0
LITTLE ROCK	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.02	-1.11	--	0.04	34	4.96	54	--	--	-	-	-	-
CA BAKERSFIELD	70	47	75	42	59	2	0.29	0.04	0.21	0.35	61	3.90	155	92	45	0	0	2	0
EUREKA	60	45	64	40	53	3	0.37	-0.88	0.24	1.96	69	20.80	151	89	50	0	0	2	0
FRESNO	67	49	73	42	58	3	0.95	0.51	0.82	1.35	134	6.33	131	91	39	0	0	3	1
LOS ANGELES	64	51	66	47	57	0	0.45	-0.03	0.26	1.33	117	7.44	122	99	45	0	0	3	0
REDDING	68	47	79	41	58	6	0.84	-0.20	0.50	1.44	60	20.15	154	83	39	0	0	3	1
SACRAMENTO	68	47	75	42	58	4	1.66	1.05	--	2.29	160	11.69	145	96	45	0	0	-	-
SAN DIEGO	64	54	67	50	59	0	0.82	0.41	0.47	1.06	113	3.46	79	88	24	0	0	4	0
SAN FRANCISCO	64	51	71	47	57	4	1.22	0.50	1.08	2.86	178	15.79	169	90	35	0	0	3	1
CO DENVER	55	31	72	26	43	5	0.63	0.35	0.42	0.65	110	0.94	56	78	38	0	5	2	0
GRAND JUNCTION	61	36	68	31	49	5	0.07	-0.18	0.07	0.37	69	2.09	126	71	25	0	2	1	0
PUEBLO	63	30	78	23	46	5	0.76	0.59	0.48	0.94	254	1.27	126	80	26	0	5	2	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	46	27	58	11	37	-1	0.16	-0.69	0.16	2.19	116	10.62	129	70	35	0	4	1	0
HARTFORD	48	19	61	3	34	-3	0.16	-0.66	0.16	2.11	115	11.99	140	80	29	0	6	1	0
DC WASHINGTON	57	33	69	19	45	-2	0.09	-0.63	0.09	1.16	71	8.17	114	73	31	0	3	1	0
FL PANAMA CITY	64	43	73	32	54	-5	0.00	-1.38	0.00	1.36	46	7.56	56	88	48	0	1	0	0
DAYTONA BEACH	66	46	79	41	56	-8	4.41	3.74	3.43	6.55	417	13.44	178	97	45	0	0	2	2
JACKSONVILLE	67	39	81	32	53	-9	0.58	-0.26	0.38	3.52	178	5.72	63	88	40	0	2	2	0
KEY WEST	78	67	78	56	64	-10	1.16	0.77	1.00	1.27	143	2.39	50	89	63	0	0	2	1
MIAMI	71	55	79	52	63	-8	0.95	0.40	0.60	1.30	107	4.43	82	89	53	0	0	2	1
ORLANDO	70	46	81	41	58	-9	2.60	1.84	2.03	4.66	262	11.57	160	96	50	0	0	2	2
TALLAHASSEE	70	37	80	30	53	-7	0.29	-1.17	0.25	2.32	69	8.81	63	88	34	0	3	2	0
TAMPA	68	45	75	41	57	-10	0.26	-0.46	0.26	1.42	83	7.65	111	84	47	0	0	1	0
WEST PALM BEACH	72	51	79	47	61	-9	2.99	2.32	2.34	3.31	213	5.33	76	96	58	0	0	2	2
GA ATLANTA	66	41	76	26	54	1	1.04	-0.30	0.65	4.83	159	16.86	132	63	31	0	3	2	1
AUGUSTA	67	36	78	24	51	-4	0.56	-0.51	0.56	1.58	64	6.81	62	80	34	0	4	1	1
MACON	66	38	78	25	52	-4	0.59	-0.52	0.59	2.84	111	8.60	72	82	37	0	3	1	1
SAVANNAH	68	42	81	31	55	-4	0.00	-0.88	0.00	1.74	87	5.11	57	77	30	0	1	0	0
HI HILO	81	65	82	63	73	1	0.96	-3.15	0.36	10.26	150	36.36	133	88	57	0	0	5	0
HONOLULU	84	68	87	64	76	2	0.00	-0.51	0.00	2.81	240	7.38	104	83	58	0	0	0	0
KAHULUI	85	63	86	59	74	1	0.00	-0.63	0.00	2.73	188	8.24	96	86	62	0	0	0	0
LIHUE	79	69	81	64	74	1	0.36	-0.60	0.36	3.64	172	12.97	113	86	67	0	0	1	0
ID BOISE	57	37	63	31	47	5	0.35	0.25	0.44	1.02	157	2.96	93	88	46	0	2	2	0
LEWISTON	57	40	61	34	49	5	0.32	-0.03	0.15	0.27	49	3.55	128	89	49	0	0	2	0
POCATELLO	55	31	64	26	43	7	0.23	-0.05	0.13	0.90	143	2.72	103	84	37	0	4	2	0
IL CHICAGO	49	29	60	14	39	3	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.44	35	2.64	63	86	42	0	5	0	0
MOLINE	53	29	63	16	41	5	0.00	-0.66	0.00	0.99	72	4.41	105	79	44	0	4	0	0
PEORIA	54	30	65	19	42	4	0.00	-0.64	0.00	0.89	66	3.14	72	83	42	0	4	0	0
QUINCY	56	32	63	20	44	4	0.00	-0.72	0.00	0.89	59	3.65	83	77	37	0	4	0	0
ROCKFORD	50	27	58	14	39	5	0.00	-0.54	0.00	0.15	14	2.06	57	91	47	0	5	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	57	32	70	21	44	4	0.00	-0.72	0.00	0.70	45	3.22	65	85	37	0	2	0	0
IN EVANSVILLE	56	30	72	17	43	-4	1.34	0.20	0.71	2.75	109	7.71	85	86	40	0	4	2	2
FORT WAYNE	51	27	67	16	39	2	0.00	-0.65	0.00	0.82	58	4.59	87	85	43	0	5	0	0
INDIANAPOLIS	54	30	68	17	42	1	0.17	-0.70	0.16	0.87	46	5.89	87	82	39	0	4	2	0
SOUTH BEND	49	28	59	9	39	2	0.00	-0.69	0.00	0.84	57	4.58	81	76	42	0	5	0	0
IA DES MOINES	57	30	70	20	44	7	0.12	-0.35	0.12	0.15	15	1.57	53	76	34	0	4	1	0
SIOUX CITY	59	25	70	17	42	8	0.04	-0.40	0.04	0.04	4	1.10	50	74	28	0	7	1	0
WATERLOO	54	27	69	17	41	8	0.06	-0.44	0.06	0.09	8	2.31	78	84	35	0	6	1	0
KS CONCORDIA	63	33	74	23	48	7	0.24	-0.27	0.24	0.24	22	0.79	32	70	29	0	4	1	0
DODGE CITY	64	32	75	22	48	6	0.62	0.27	0.54	0.80	111	1.27	68	74	27	0	3	2	1
GOODLAND	63	30	75	24	46	8	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	0.26	19	74	26	0	5	0	0
TOPEKA	63	36	73	21	50	7	0.54	-0.01	0.54	0.54	47	1.48	46	83	31	0	1	1	1
WICHITA	65	38	77	28	51	6	1.09	0.50	1.09	1.09	87	1.24	37	78	30	0	1	1	1
KY BOWLING GREEN	59	32	72	18	45	-2	0.48	-0.69	0.31	2.64	100	11.60	108	92	44	0	4	2	0
LEXINGTON	55	31	69	14	43	-2	0.89	-0.13	0.55	2.82	125	9.20	109	77	35	0	3	2	1
LOUISVILLE	58	35	73	19	46	1	0.82	-0.25	0.54	2.31	97	8.45	97	79	33	0	3	2	1
LA BATON ROUGE	72	45	82	27	59	-2	0.00	-1.07	0.00	0.84	34	9.54	73	90	34	0	3	0	0
LAKE CHARLES	69	46	78	26	57	-3	0.04	-0.70	0.04	0.17	10	4.28	43	93	49	0	3	1	0
NEW ORLEANS	72	48	82	34	60	-1	0.00	-1.11	0.00	0.68	26	6.96	50	83	33	0	0	0	0
SHREVEPORT	72	43	81	23	57	1	0.03	-0.88	0.03	0.37	17	3.13	29	84	34	0	3	1	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 16, 1996

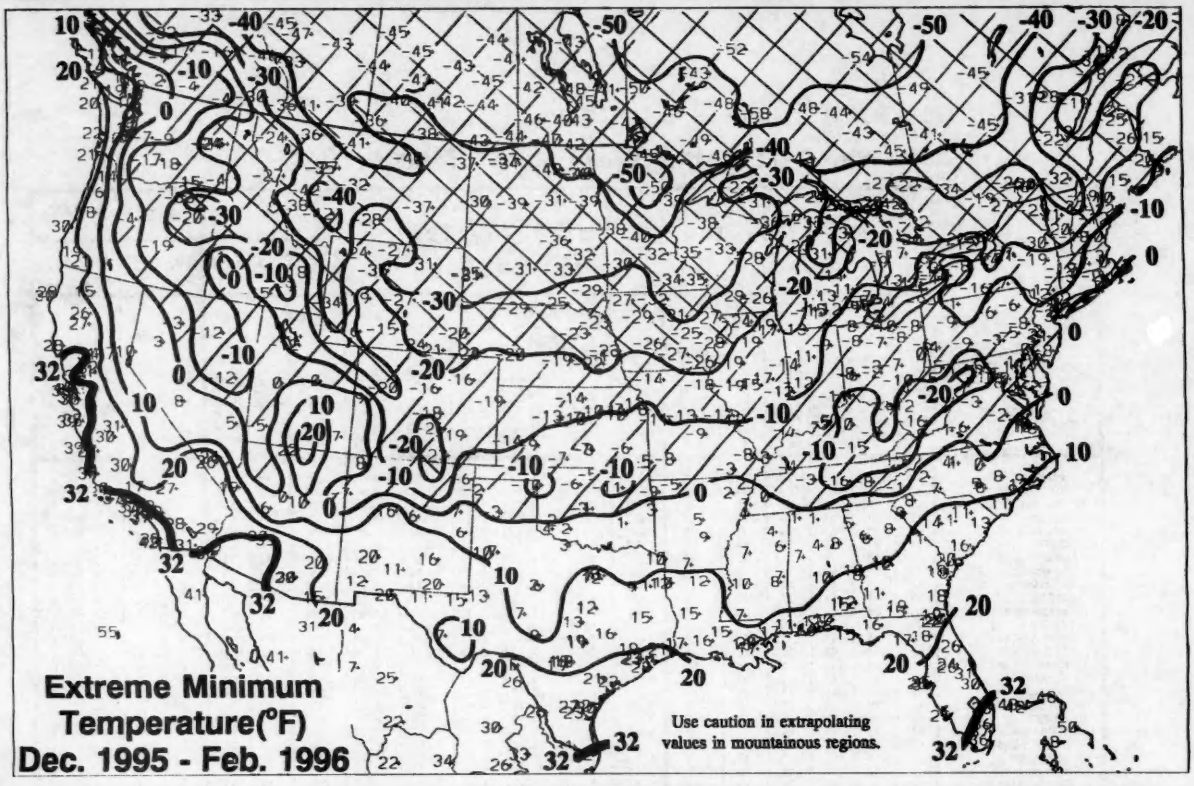
STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
ME CARIBOU	40	17	50	-5	29	5	0.12	-0.43	0.08	1.10	90	7.82	139	79	42	0	7	2	0
PORTLAND	42	16	54	-5	29	-3	0.35	-0.47	0.35	1.83	99	9.78	111	88	42	0	6	1	0
MD BALTIMORE	55	29	65	11	42	-1	0.17	-0.60	0.17	1.30	74	10.47	130	66	30	0	4	1	0
SALISBURY	54	28	68	16	41	-4	0.02	-0.94	0.02	0.96	44	9.19	98	85	32	0	5	1	0
MA BOSTON	45	28	58	15	36	-2	0.14	-0.69	0.14	2.14	113	12.76	138	72	37	0	5	1	0
CHATHAM	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
MI ALPENA	42	24	54	12	33	6	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.15	15	3.08	77	75	46	0	6	0	0
DETROIT	47	24	65	8	36	0	0.00	-0.57	0.00	0.28	23	3.90	81	79	43	0	7	0	0
FLINT	46	23	59	0	34	1	0.00	-0.47	0.00	0.31	31	3.62	97	78	43	0	6	0	0
GRAND RAPIDS	44	26	54	11	35	2	0.00	-0.58	0.00	0.22	18	2.20	48	78	45	0	5	0	0
HOUGHTON LAKE	44	24	56	9	34	7	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.77	79	4.01	108	80	44	0	7	0	0
LANSING	47	24	59	-3	36	4	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.52	50	2.10	56	82	42	0	4	0	0
MARQUETTE	41	19	56	2	30	7	0.09	-0.54	0.07	0.26	19	8.42	157	90	54	0	5	3	0
MUSKEGON	45	27	55	18	36	3	0.00	-0.56	0.00	0.62	52	3.65	72	79	42	0	6	0	0
SAULT ST. MARIE	37	19	50	1	28	5	0.05	-0.47	0.02	0.37	32	6.64	124	82	45	0	6	3	0
MN ALEXANDRIA	40	26	46	10	33	7	0.02	-0.29	0.02	0.08	13	2.41	107	91	65	0	5	1	0
DULUTH	41	27	50	10	34	11	0.05	-0.38	0.05	0.08	9	3.54	86	74	49	0	4	1	0
INT'L FALLS	43	21	56	6	32	11	0.04	-0.19	0.04	0.06	8	3.28	161	81	46	0	7	1	0
MINNEAPOLIS	48	30	58	14	39	9	0.03	-0.40	0.03	0.15	16	2.26	81	76	44	0	4	1	0
ROCHESTER	47	28	59	14	38	9	0.08	-0.31	0.08	0.18	23	2.39	101	83	47	0	5	1	0
MS GREENWOOD	71	42	80	24	56	2	0.00	-1.33	0.00	0.07	2	6.37	51	83	28	0	3	0	0
JACKSON	69	41	80	23	55	0	0.00	-1.36	0.00	3.10	102	13.96	103	87	33	0	3	0	0
MERIDIAN	70	39	80	22	54	-3	0.00	-1.54	0.00	4.66	133	13.97	98	86	36	0	3	0	0
MO CAPE GIRARDEAU	58	34	71	21	46	0	1.06	-0.09	0.73	2.00	78	6.54	73	92	47	0	3	2	1
COLUMBIA	62	37	70	19	49	8	0.01	-0.68	0.01	0.41	28	3.23	66	72	31	0	2	1	0
KANSAS CITY	62	37	71	20	50	8	0.07	-0.49	0.07	0.25	21	1.59	46	60	30	0	1	1	0
SAINT LOUIS	61	39	70	25	50	6	0.00	-0.81	0.00	0.53	30	4.32	74	67	33	0	2	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	63	36	74	17	50	5	0.05	-0.82	0.05	0.05	3	3.18	56	71	30	0	2	1	0
MT BILLINGS	55	34	65	29	45	10	0.21	-0.05	0.16	0.50	93	1.91	90	85	42	0	2	2	0
GLASGOW	48	26	60	13	37	9	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.14	88	0.75	94	91	58	0	7	0	0
GREAT FALLS	54	34	62	28	44	11	0.05	-0.20	0.05	0.37	71	0.97	48	84	38	0	3	1	0
HAVRE	51	30	58	28	40	10	0.04	-0.10	0.04	0.23	74	1.17	97	92	53	0	7	1	0
HELENA	51	26	55	23	39	6	0.12	-0.05	0.12	0.20	57	0.75	53	94	50	0	7	1	0
KALISPELL	48	28	51	25	38	5	0.02	-0.20	0.02	0.26	51	4.79	151	96	51	0	7	1	0
MILES CITY	53	29	67	22	41	9	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.26	96	1.76	137	92	45	0	6	0	0
MISSOULA	53	30	58	26	41	6	0.18	-0.04	0.12	0.40	80	3.29	128	94	45	0	6	3	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	60	27	72	23	44	7	0.00	-0.42	0.00	0.00	0	1.07	50	71	26	0	6	0	0
LINCOLN	63	27	74	21	45	7	0.02	-0.44	0.02	0.16	16	1.26	55	72	25	0	5	1	0
NORFOLK	61	29	73	22	45	10	0.04	-0.38	0.04	0.09	10	1.06	48	70	28	0	5	1	0
NORTH PLATTE	61	23	67	19	42	6	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.05	9	0.56	41	86	25	0	7	0	0
OMAHA	61	30	72	25	46	8	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.05	5	1.56	62	75	25	0	4	0	0
SCOTTSBLUFF	60	28	73	21	44	9	0.20	-0.04	0.16	0.30	60	1.13	76	81	30	0	6	2	0
VALENTINE	60	28	66	23	44	9	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.04	6	0.72	43	95	38	0	7	0	0
NV ELY	50	28	62	23	39	5	0.48	0.26	0.44	0.60	125	2.06	109	85	44	0	6	2	0
LAS VEGAS	71	48	81	43	60	4	0.03	-0.08	0.03	0.08	32	0.36	30	71	19	0	0	1	0
RENO	54	30	69	26	42	0	0.41	0.24	0.39	1.45	354	4.55	181	90	36	0	5	2	0
WINNEMUCCA	56	29	65	23	43	2	0.18	0.01	0.17	0.52	137	3.28	188	88	37	0	6	2	0
NH CONCORD	47	12	58	-11	30	-2	0.08	-0.53	0.08	1.14	82	8.58	132	89	27	0	7	1	0
NJ ATLANTIC CITY	50	23	60	7	37	-4	0.12	-0.70	0.12	1.81	99	7.21	85	80	36	0	6	1	0
NM ALBUQUERQUE	64	34	71	29	49	3	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.35	29	43	15	0	2	0	0
CLOVIS	70	36	79	31	53	6	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.36	30	53	15	0	2	0	0
ROSWELL	74	36	83	27	55	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	19	0	1	-	-
NY ALBANY	44	16	57	0	30	-4	0.07	-0.59	0.06	0.98	67	4.94	80	88	35	0	6	2	0
BINGHAMTON	42	20	57	4	31	-1	0.01	-0.62	0.01	0.67	48	4.77	77	71	36	0	6	1	0
BUFFALO	41	20	52	6	31	-2	0.00	-0.61	0.00	0.93	69	5.60	87	77	41	0	6	0	0
NEW YORK	52	34	65	19	43	2	0.16	-0.65	0.16	2.04	113	8.26	106	59	27	0	3	1	0
ROCHESTER	43	19	59	8	31	-3	0.03	-0.48	0.03	1.25	109	6.06	112	84	41	0	6	1	0
SYRACUSE	41	17	58	1	29	-4	0.04	-0.58	0.04	1.19	88	5.57	94	77	40	0	7	1	0
NC ASHEVILLE	59	26	71	10	42	-5	0.49	-0.83	0.29	1.49	50	11.41	99	85	28	0	5	2	0
CHARLOTTE	62	34	75	20	48	-2	0.46	-0.58	0.33	2.65	111	9.26	92	68	25	0	4	2	0
GREENSBORO	60	31	74	18	45	-3	0.93	0.08	0.71	2.40	123	8.63	101	71	29	0	4	2	1
HATTERAS	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.10	-0.89	--	1.78	--	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
NEW BERN	63	36	80	26	49	-3	0.22	-0.68	0.22	3.80	181	9.78	91	81	34	0	4	1	0
RALEIGH	61	31	75	19	46	-3	0.10	-0.78	0.10	1.76	86	8.54	91	78	30	0	4	1	0
WILMINGTON	63	36	78	26	50	-3	0.11	-0.93	0.11	1.87	79	6.02	52	85	34	0	4	1	0
ND BISMARCK	55	26	64	14	41	14	0.05	-0.11	0.05	0.15	47	1.77	143	92	51	0	7	1	0
FARGO	40	26	45	13	33	9	0.05	-0.18	0.05	0.05	11	2.81	172	89	68	0	7	1	0
GRAND FORKS	40	23	44	11	32	9	0.20	-0.01	0.20	0.23	53	1.82	110	92	67	0	7	1	0
WILLISTON	53	26	67	22	40	12	0.03	-0.12	0.02	0.11	37	1.07	82	93	50	0	7	2	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	48	24	63	6	36	-1	0.00	-0.76	0.00	1.12	67	3.63	59	76	39	0	6	0	0
CINCINNATI	55	30	70	12	42	0	0.42	-0.56	0.21	0.99	46	6.56	87	82	33	0	5	4	0
CLEVELAND	46	24	64	8	35	-1	0.10	-0.55	0.10	0.90	62	5.19	90	80	45	0	6	1	0
COLUMBUS	52	27	67	10	40	2	0.25	-0.47	0.25	1.33	85	7.28	125	86	35	0	5	1	0
DAYTON	51	28	66	13	40	0	0.43	-0.35	0.39	1.38	81	6.46	106	85	45	0	5	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 16, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTRME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
TOLEDO	49	27	67	9	38	2	0.08	-0.51	0.08	2.48	191	5.31	110	86	41	0	5	1	0
YOUNGSTOWN	47	21	62	1	34	-2	0.00	-0.78	0.00	1.10	71	5.81	100	79	37	0	6	0	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	70	39	84	23	55	5	0.00	-0.62	0.00	0.00	0	0.06	1	74	27	0	1	0	0
TULSA	66	45	78	29	56	6	0.26	-0.53	0.20	0.26	15	0.89	17	71	33	0	1	2	0
OR ASTORIA	55	41	65	34	48	3	0.76	-0.88	0.47	3.26	86	26.88	124	96	69	0	0	3	0
BURNS	56	29	62	25	42	6	0.99	0.74	0.55	1.10	200	3.87	166	92	41	0	5	2	1
MEDFORD	64	37	70	31	51	4	0.09	-0.33	0.09	0.18	18	8.57	151	93	32	0	2	1	0
PENDLETON	57	38	61	30	48	3	0.15	-0.13	0.14	0.47	75	3.94	119	93	49	0	1	2	0
PORTLAND	58	42	68	35	50	3	0.57	-0.25	0.32	2.44	127	18.89	168	91	55	0	0	2	0
SALEM	59	41	67	31	50	5	0.24	-0.74	0.12	2.06	90	23.31	181	94	50	0	1	2	0
PA ALLENTOWN	49	20	64	6	35	-4	0.37	-0.37	0.37	1.71	102	10.03	127	81	32	0	6	1	0
ERIE	43	25	60	9	34	-2	0.00	-0.68	0.00	1.02	68	6.33	104	67	44	0	6	0	0
HARRISBURG	52	26	67	9	39	-1	0.11	-0.63	0.11	1.21	69	8.69	101	79	29	0	5	1	0
PHILADELPHIA	52	28	63	13	40	-1	0.28	-0.50	0.28	2.08	118	7.10	85	81	41	0	4	1	0
PITTSBURGH	53	23	66	3	38	-1	0.35	-0.43	0.34	1.88	109	8.14	121	79	30	0	5	2	0
SCRANTON	47	19	61	-1	33	-3	0.29	-0.28	0.29	1.62	128	9.40	168	73	30	0	5	1	0
RI PROVIDENCE	46	23	60	11	35	-2	0.17	-0.74	0.17	2.02	99	9.16	95	79	35	0	6	1	0
SC CHARLESTON	67	39	80	28	53	-5	0.24	-0.78	0.24	1.42	61	3.83	42	73	31	0	2	1	0
COLUMBIA	66	37	78	26	52	-3	0.92	-0.21	0.59	4.34	170	8.44	75	79	34	0	3	2	1
FLORENCE	66	37	79	24	51	-4	0.58	-0.38	0.37	2.14	98	6.43	71	78	28	0	4	2	0
GREENVILLE	64	36	76	21	50	-1	1.16	-0.09	0.91	4.69	165	13.99	121	67	29	0	4	2	1
SD ABERDEEN	47	27	51	7	37	9	0.13	-0.12	0.12	0.21	42	2.29	132	91	56	0	7	1	0
HURON	51	28	59	14	40	9	0.11	-0.26	0.09	0.33	42	1.68	89	90	53	0	5	2	0
RAPID CITY	58	31	66	25	44	11	0.28	0.06	0.25	0.80	178	1.69	123	88	42	0	4	2	0
SIOUX FALLS	54	30	69	21	43	12	0.20	-0.16	0.15	0.31	42	1.48	77	79	39	0	4	2	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	64	33	74	21	49	-1	0.82	-0.59	0.47	5.25	166	14.97	114	86	28	0	4	2	0
KNOXVILLE	59	32	70	18	46	-3	0.63	-0.56	0.47	2.56	96	13.74	115	78	37	0	4	2	0
MEMPHIS	66	43	78	23	55	3	0.00	-1.22	0.00	1.59	58	9.81	89	73	33	0	2	0	0
NASHVILLE	64	34	74	18	49	-1	0.40	-0.71	0.21	1.89	76	8.29	83	85	34	0	4	2	0
TX ABILENE	76	45	86	31	61	5	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.00	0	0.75	26	61	15	0	1	0	0
AMARILLO	70	33	81	27	52	5	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.31	19	58	15	0	2	0	0
AUSTIN	76	48	83	28	62	1	0.07	-0.34	0.07	0.12	12	0.78	16	87	33	0	1	1	0
BEAUMONT	70	48	79	33	59	-2	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.06	4	3.73	38	98	54	0	0	0	0
BROWNSVILLE	77	56	84	42	67	-2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.21	7	88	37	0	0	0	0
CORPUS CHRISTI	75	53	85	30	64	-1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	0.09	2	86	39	0	1	0	0
DEL RIO	80	49	88	31	65	4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.01	2	0.41	13	73	26	0	1	0	0
EL PASO	73	41	80	31	57	2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.31	31	35	13	0	1	0	0
FORT WORTH	74	45	88	26	60	5	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.00	0	1.28	22	68	26	0	1	0	0
GALVESTON	65	56	72	43	61	0	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	0.77	11	85	62	0	0	0	0
HOUSTON	73	50	82	28	61	1	0.00	-0.71	0.00	0.02	1	2.19	24	87	43	0	1	0	0
LUBBOCK	74	36	83	30	55	5	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.28	18	59	14	0	1	0	0
MIDLAND	77	39	86	26	58	3	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.08	6	63	10	0	1	0	0
SAN ANGELO	78	42	86	24	60	2	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.30	13	68	17	0	1	0	0
SAN ANTONIO	78	46	85	26	62	1	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.02	3	0.71	16	84	32	0	2	0	0
VICTORIA	73	49	79	29	61	-1	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	0.32	4	95	48	0	1	0	0
WACO	75	43	84	22	59	1	0.00	-0.52	0.00	0.01	1	1.01	20	78	28	0	1	0	0
WICHITA FALLS	75	41	87	24	58	5	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.00	0	0.10	2	68	21	0	1	0	0
UT CEDAR CITY	57	33	67	27	45	6	0.05	-0.25	0.03	0.16	24	1.79	78	82	32	0	3	2	0
SALT LAKE CITY	58	38	71	34	48	7	0.66	0.23	0.33	1.19	128	5.83	174	78	32	0	0	3	0
VT BURLINGTON	42	16	52	-4	29	-1	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.35	32	4.88	107	83	38	0	7	0	0
VA NORFOLK	55	36	78	24	46	-2	0.24	-0.61	0.24	1.54	79	10.04	108	80	37	0	4	1	0
RICHMOND	57	29	73	16	43	-4	0.58	-0.25	0.39	1.11	59	6.52	78	74	29	0	4	2	0
ROANOKE	60	27	73	9	43	-3	0.58	-0.22	0.30	0.99	55	10.00	132	76	27	0	4	2	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	54	40	60	33	47	4	0.99	-1.67	0.42	3.34	54	29.15	87	98	68	0	0	5	0
SEATTLE-TACOMA	56	43	64	38	50	5	0.73	-0.09	0.35	1.30	68	16.98	149	91	60	0	0	3	0
SPOKANE	53	34	57	28	43	5	0.03	-0.30	0.02	0.96	70	5.56	129	97	56	0	3	2	0
YAKIMA	60	37	66	30	48	6	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.40	108	3.52	152	82	42	0	2	1	0
WV BECKLEY	52	24	63	1	38	-3	0.93	0.16	0.51	2.09	120	10.47	136	78	31	0	5	3	1
CHARLESTON	57	25	69	6	41	-4	1.06	0.23	0.71	2.47	132	10.34	131	93	33	0	5	3	1
HUNTINGTON	57	28	71	8	43	0	1.02	0.22	0.75	2.44	136	10.20	138	91	32	0	4	3	1
PARKERSBURG	56	28	69	7	42	0	0.64	-0.23	0.54	1.82	94	10.01	124	91	34	0	4	3	1
WI GREEN BAY	45	27	55	11	36	7	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.22	23	3.76	86	83	52	0	6	0	0
LACROSSE	51	30	62	14	40	9	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.13	14	3.56	132	81	37	0	4	0	0
MADISON	51	26	62	11	38	6	0.00	-0.47	0.00	0.20	20	3.26	101	81	41	0	6	0	0
MILWAUKEE	49	29	60	13	39	7	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.13	10	2.13	49	81	46	0	6	0	0
WAUSAU	43	25	52	1	34	6	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.07	8	2.70	98	84	47	0	5	0	0
WY CASPER	55	29	65	23	42	9	0.07	-0.13	0.03	0.23	53	1.43	90	78	36	0	5	4	0
CHEYENNE	51	28	66	24	40	7	0.51	0.28	0.29	0.54	113	1.13	88	79	35	0	6	4	0
LANDER	53	29	61	25	41	8	0.02	-0.22	0.02	0.02	4	1.24	78	77	33	0	5	1	0
SHERIDAN	54	29	70	26	42	9	0.53	0.33	0.36	0.98	228	1.81	98	87	44	0	6	4	0
PR SAN JUAN	87	73	90	72	80	2	0.29	-0.22	0.20	0.89	79	9.10	148	94	51	1	0	4	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.



Winter Weather Review

HIGHLIGHTS: Energetic and changeable weather patterns brought additional flooding to the Pacific Northwest, nipped Florida's Peninsula with four minor to moderate freezes, and repeatedly delivered snow/thaw cycles to the Northeast. Winter's most persistent feature was the lack of precipitation from the Southwest to the central and southern Plains. Cold air failed to invade the Southwest during the winter, but the Plains were subjected to temperature oscillations and high winds. The season's most severe cold outbreak gripped the Northwest, Plains, and East in early February, lowering temperatures to -60°F in Minnesota. Less than 3 weeks later, triple-digit heat struck drought-stressed southern Texas.

The Nation's preliminary average precipitation of 5.28 inches was 83 percent of normal, and the seventh lowest during the 101-year period of record. Wetness in the Northwest and near-normal precipitation across the Nation's northern tier were more than offset by generally dry conditions elsewhere. With respect to temperatures, warmth in the Nation's southwestern quadrant was nearly balanced by near- to below-normal readings in other areas. The Nation's average temperature of 33.2°F was 0.9°F above normal, marking the 46th warmest winter since 1895. *(Historical data was provided courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center.)*

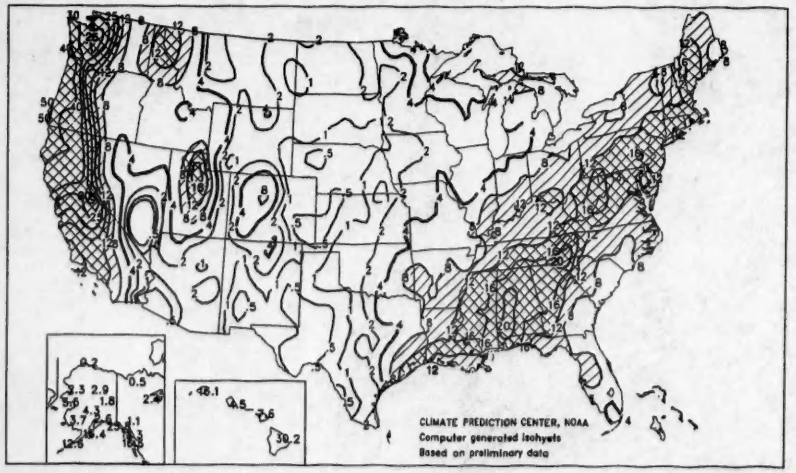
DECEMBER: Though flooding waned across the Northwest early in the month, a "super storm" raked the region on December 12. Extensive wind damage resulted from San Francisco Bay to the mouth of the Columbia River, as gusts topped 100 mph. Temperature departures in the West ranged from +2 to +8°F, in contrast to readings that averaged 2 to 6°F below normal in the East. The cold pattern in the East culminated in a minor freeze into Peninsular Florida on December 25.

JANUARY: Record snowfall, including the "Blizzard of '96," buried the Northeast through January 12. Sub-freezing temperatures again invaded Florida on January 9. Just after mid-month, a northern Plains blizzard forced warm, wet weather into the East, melting most of the snow and inducing one of the region's worst mid-winter floods on January 19-22. From Kansas southward, the same storm raised dust and buffeted wheat stands with gusts as high as 50 to 75 mph. Late in the month, bitterly cold air began to invade the North Central States. Monthly temperatures averaged 5 to 12°F below normal across the northern Plains. Warmth again cloaked most of the West, with readings averaging 2 to 5°F above normal.

FEBRUARY: A severe cold snap peaked on February 2-5, setting numerous monthly and all-time records from the upper Midwest into the Southeast. The central Plains' winter wheat was largely exposed to readings that dipped as low as -20°F on February 3. Two days later, Florida suffered its worst freeze of the season, but escaped major damage. Bitter cold in the Northwest (-24°F in Spokane, WA on February 2) yielded to warm, wet weather by February 5. Rain- and snowmelt-fueled flooding, most severe in Oregon's Willamette Basin, lasted until February 10. Warmth soon overspread the remainder of the Nation, including monthly record-high temperatures in the South Central States on February 21-23. A return to cooler weather toward month's end threatened sensitive-stage tree blooms across the South.

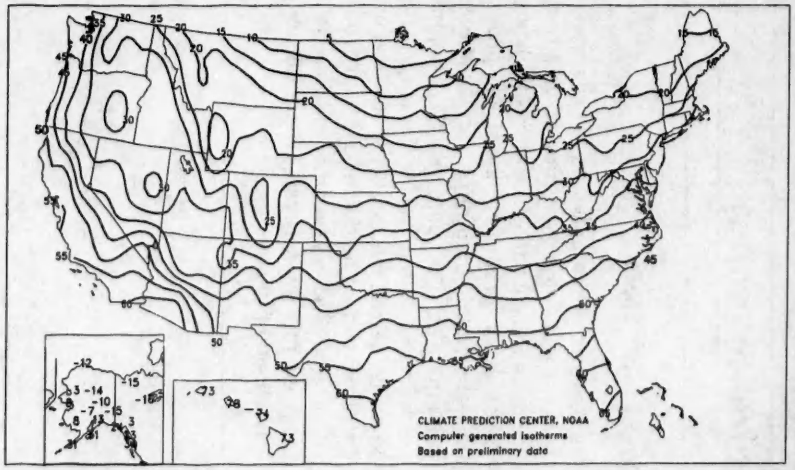
Winter Total Precipitation (Inches)

DEC-FEB 1996



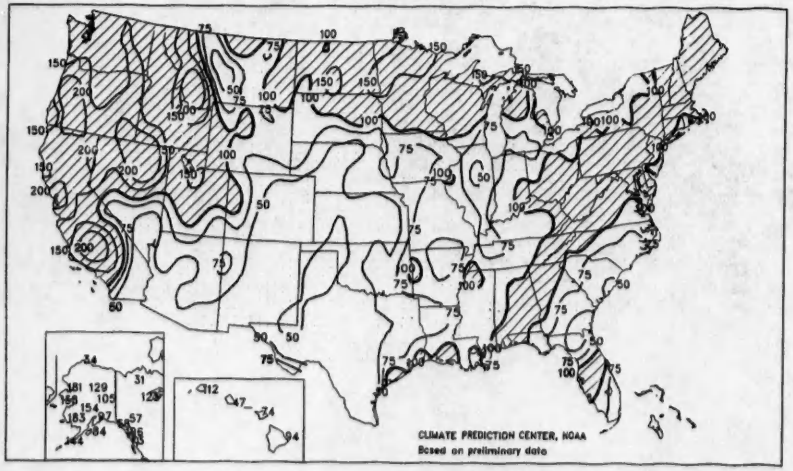
Winter Average Temperature (°F)

DEC-FEB 1996



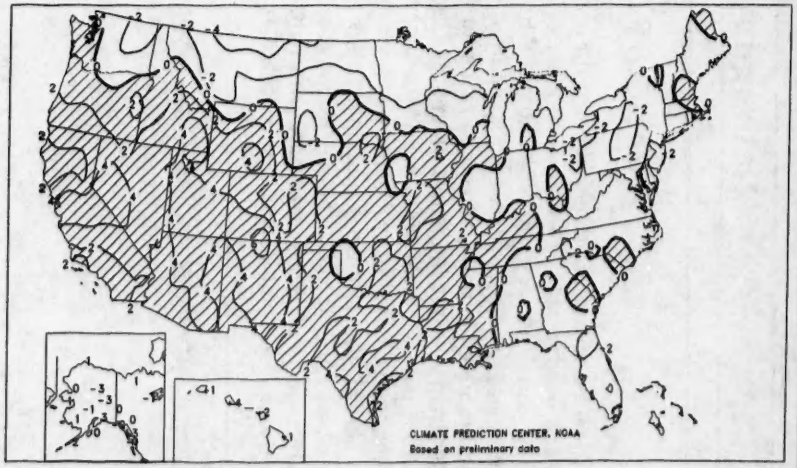
Winter Percent of Normal Precipitation

DEC-FEB 1996



Winter Departure from Normal Average Temperature (°F)

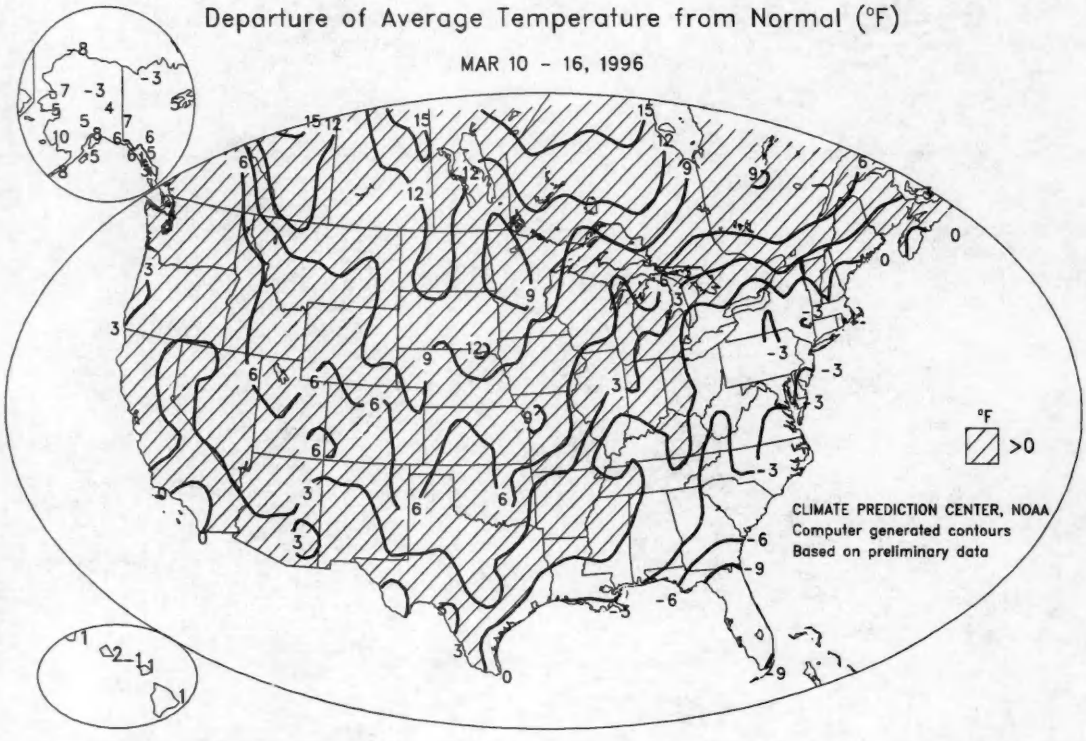
DEC-FEB 1996

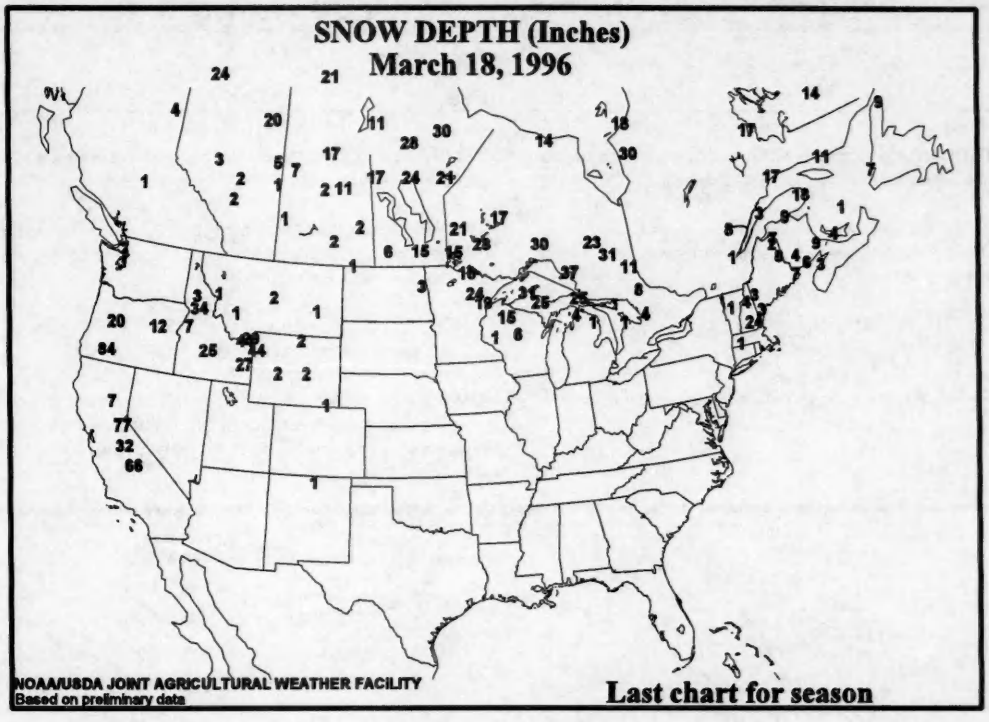


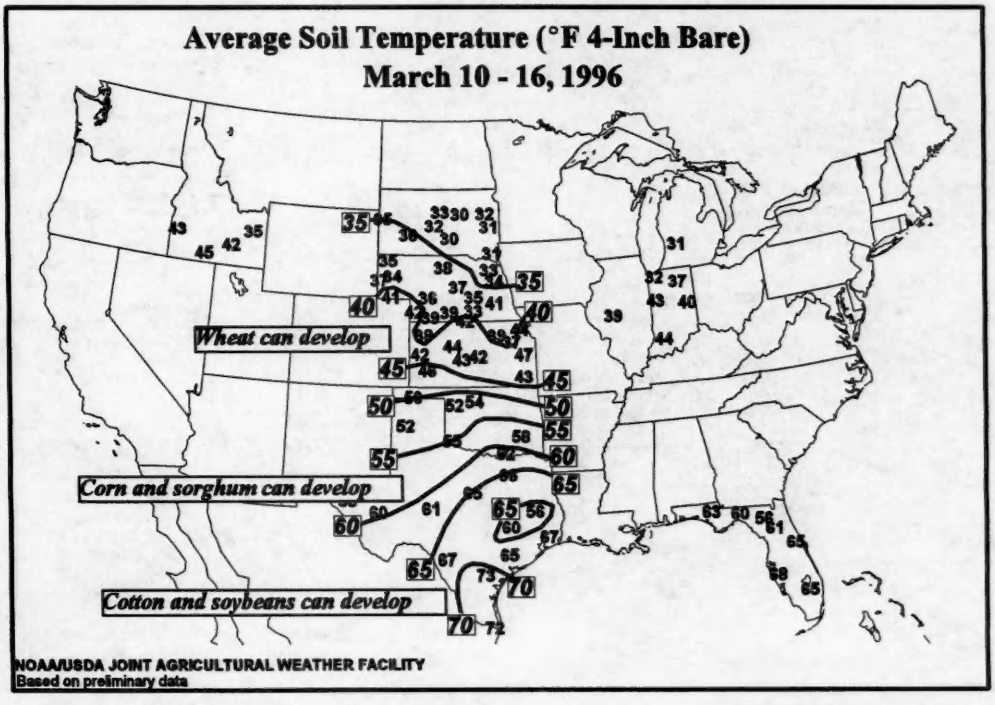
National Agricultural Summary

HIGHLIGHTS for March 11 - 17, 1996

Wheat condition improved slightly in Kansas as much-needed rain fell across southern Kansas and parts of northern Oklahoma. The rain, combined with warmer weather, spurred wheat development in parts of the central Great Plains. More rain was needed, since most areas received less than an inch of rain. Wheat condition continued to decline in Oklahoma, since the full effect of the late-week precipitation was not realized. Southern Oklahoma and most of Texas remained dry. Some leaf burn and damage to early-headed small grains was reported in Texas as a result of the previous week's freeze. More Texas wheat fields were plowed as a result of the continued dry weather. Short supplies of hay in Texas have prompted livestock producers to increase culling their herds. In Oklahoma, wheat jointing was 15 percent (%) complete, 15 percentage points behind the average of 30%, and 35 points behind this date in 1995. Wet weather in California slowed fieldwork but improved growing conditions. The dry weather allowed fieldwork to progress rapidly in Texas, where cotton planting was ahead of the average.




SNOW DEPTH (Inches)
March 18, 1996
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data
Last chart for season


Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare)
March 10 - 16, 1996
Wheat can develop
Corn and sorghum can develop
Cotton and soybeans can develop
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 10 - 16, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably cold weather over Ukraine and Russia maintained snow cover farther south than usual.

EUROPE: Late-season cold weather kept winter crops dormant from Germany eastward through Poland and slowed early vegetative growth in England and France.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Significant rain soaked winter grain areas in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

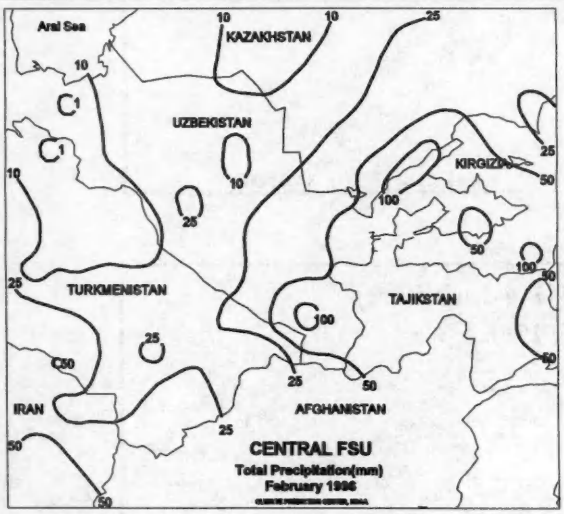
SOUTH AFRICA: Persistent wetness raised further concerns for corn quality.

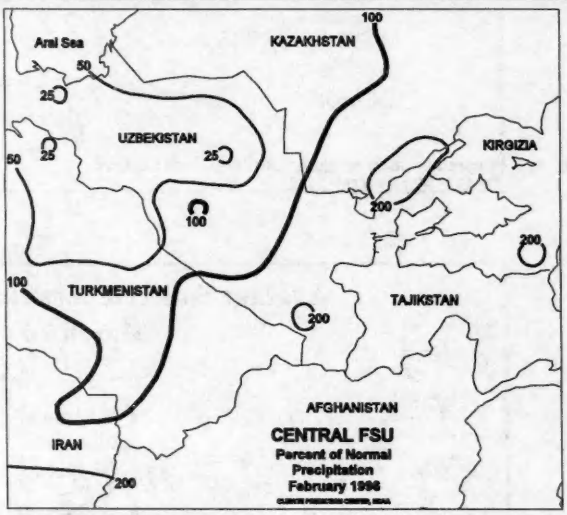
AUSTRALIA: Rain in the east helped pastures but missed the main sorghum and cotton areas.

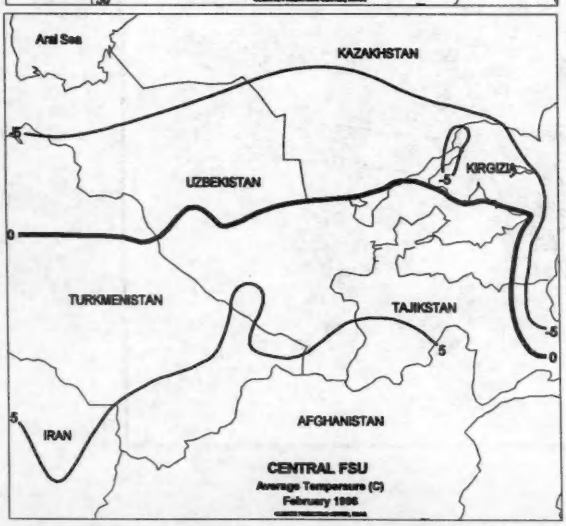
EASTERN ASIA: Rain benefited vegetative winter wheat across the southern North China Plain and Yangtze Valley and early-transplanted rice across southern China.

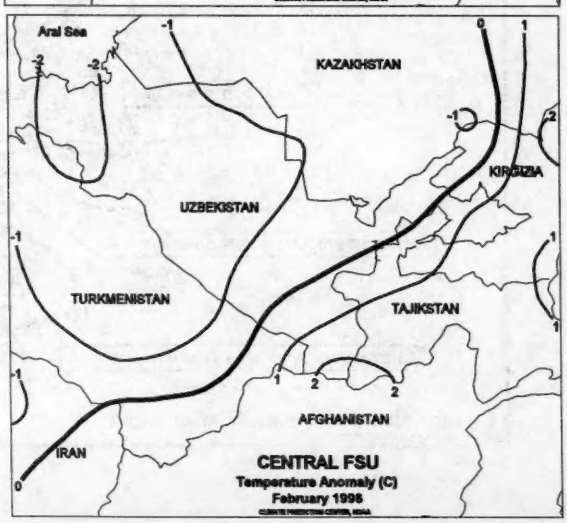
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Seasonable showers prevailed across Java and the Philippines, maintaining irrigation supplies.

SOUTH AMERICA: Widespread rain covered most of central Argentina, but missed portions of the major crop area. In southern Brazil, showers continued to slow early soybean harvesting across the north.



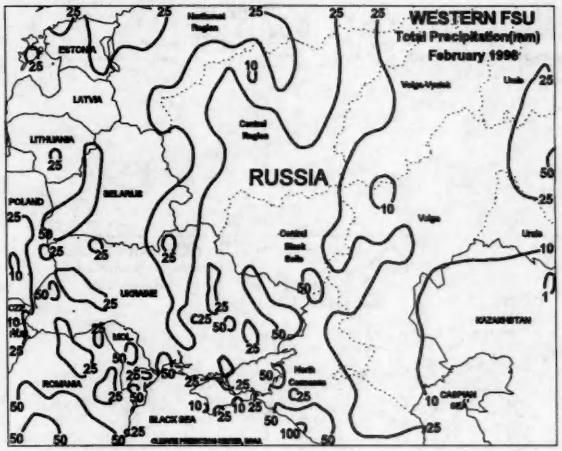


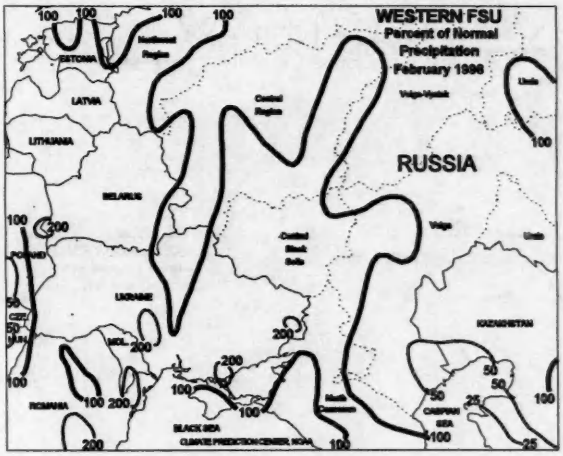


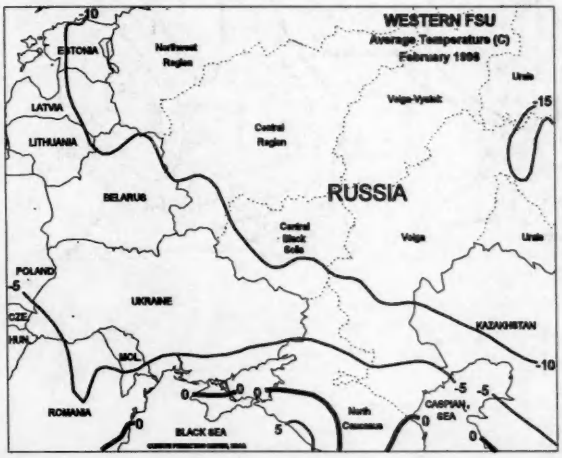


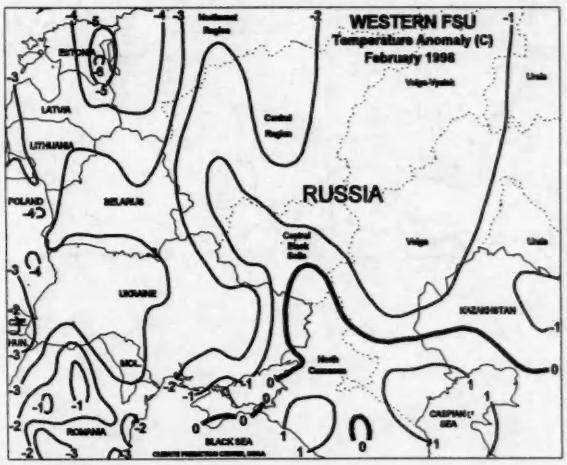
FSU-WESTERN

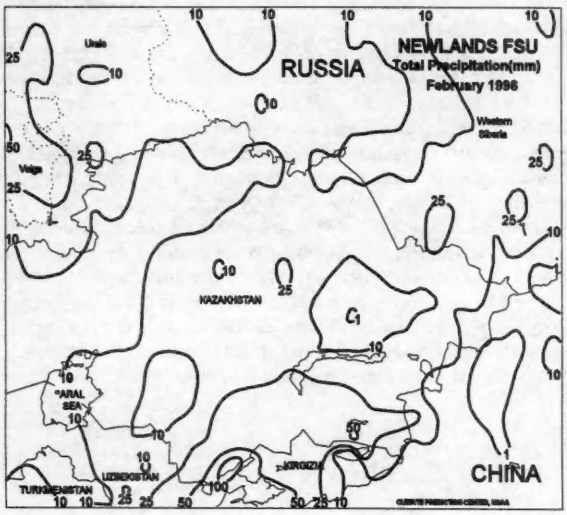
High pressure persisted over the region during the week, bringing unseasonably cold, dry weather to western and southern winter grain areas. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C below normal over Ukraine, most of southern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, with near-normal temperatures over northern Russia. A moderate to deep snow cover extended farther south than usual over winter wheat areas in Ukraine and the northern tip of the North Caucasus region in Russia, preventing early-season fieldwork. In February, unseasonably cold weather covered Ukraine, most of Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, maintaining a moderate to deep snow cover. The snow cover protected winter grains from periods of bitter cold during the month. One such period occurred from February 6 to 13 when lowest temperatures dropped below -20 degrees C (except the North Caucasus Region in Russia). Although a warming trend at mid-month improved overwintering conditions for crops, it caused some melting of snow. At month's end, below-normal temperatures and light snow returned to most winter grain areas. Precipitation in February was above normal over Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltics, and parts of Russia (Central Region and Black Soils Region), while below-normal precipitation fell over remaining areas in Russia.

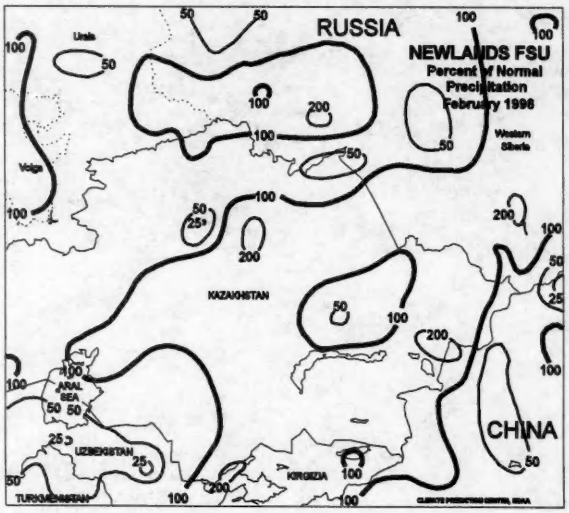


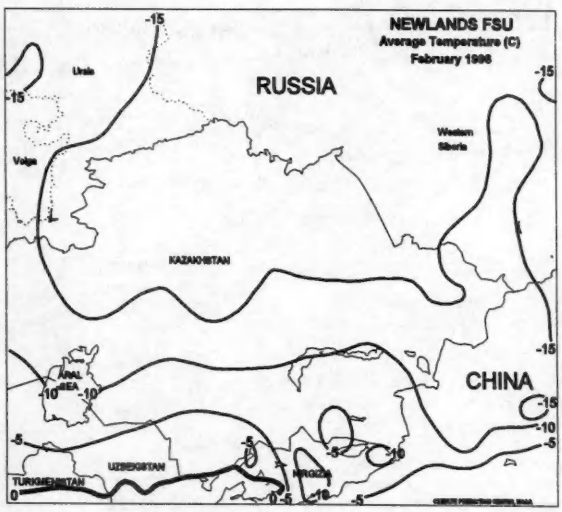


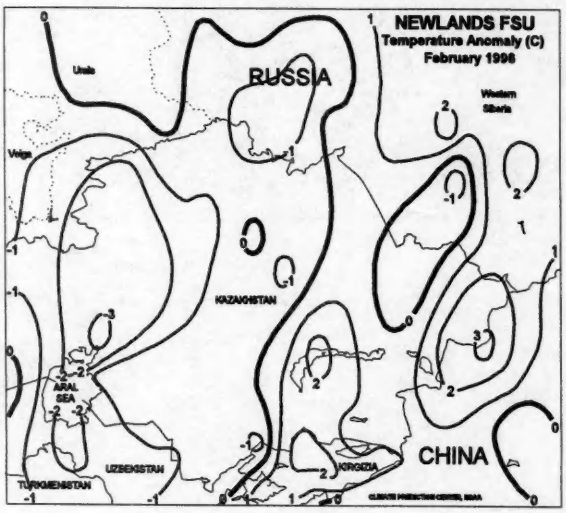


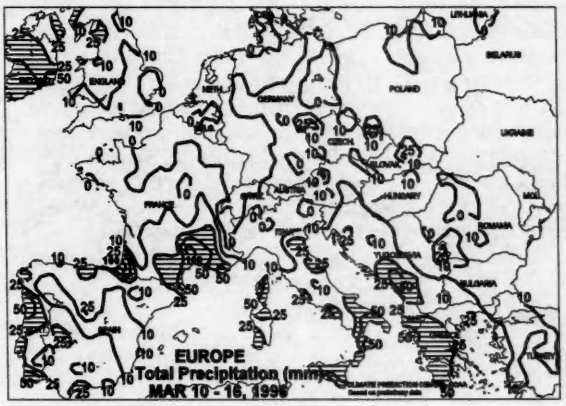



NEWLANDS FSU
Total Precipitation(mm)
February 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
KIRGIZIA
CHINA


NEWLANDS FSU
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
KIRGIZIA
CHINA

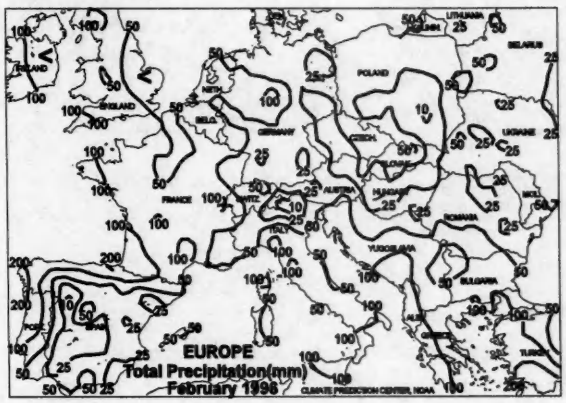

NEWLANDS FSU
Average Temperature (C)
February 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
KIRGIZIA
CHINA

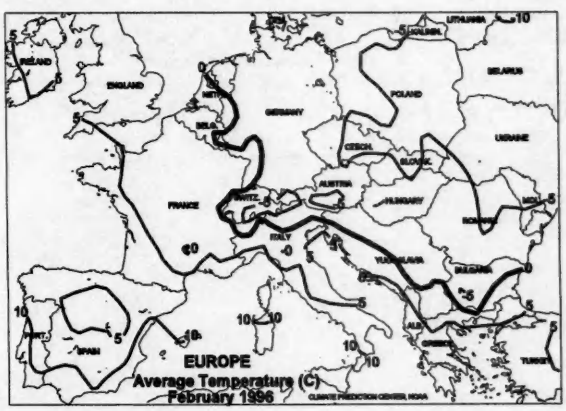

NEWLANDS FSU
Temperature Anomaly (C)
February 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
KIRGIZIA
CHINA

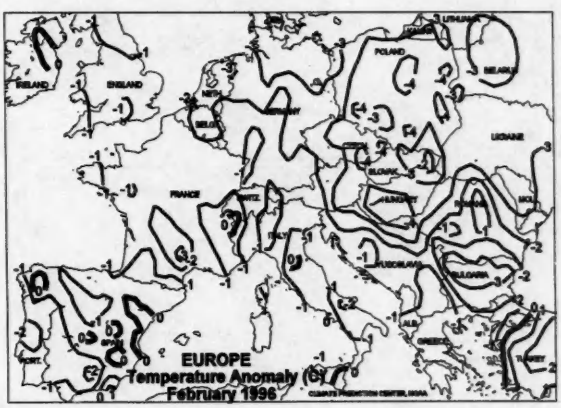


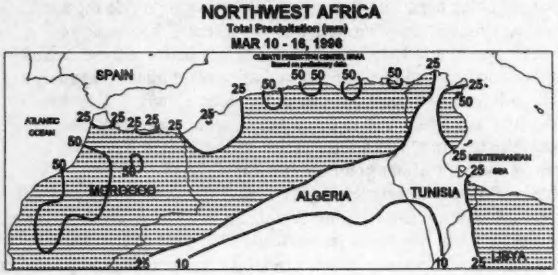
EUROPE

Unseasonably cold weather covered most areas, keeping winter crops dormant in the north and slowing spring grain planting in the south. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in France, Spain, and Italy, and 3 to 6 degrees below normal across northern and eastern Europe. Spring barley planting was reportedly well underway in France but was progressing slowly in the United Kingdom and Spain due to cold, wet weather. The cold weather slowed early growth of winter grains in the United Kingdom and France, and kept winter grains dormant in Germany. A snow cover remained over dormant winter grain areas in eastern Europe, where crops typically begin breaking dormancy in April. Precipitation during the week was light and scattered over most of Europe, with significant moisture confined to Ireland, Portugal, southern Italy, and Greece. In February, above-normal precipitation covered the United Kingdom, France, the Benelux countries, and from Italy eastward through southeastern Europe, increasing moisture reserves. Below-normal precipitation fell over central Spain, Germany, southern Poland, the Czech and Slovak Republics, and Hungary. Unseasonably cold weather persisted over northern and eastern Europe during February. In most areas, snow cover was adequate to protect winter crops from periodic bitter cold. However, a severe cold spell in early February extended from northeastern Germany eastward through Poland, where extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -17 to -25 degrees C. A variable snow cover in these areas increased the potential for some crop damage, especially to winter rapeseed and winter barley which are less resistant to extreme cold than winter wheat and rye.



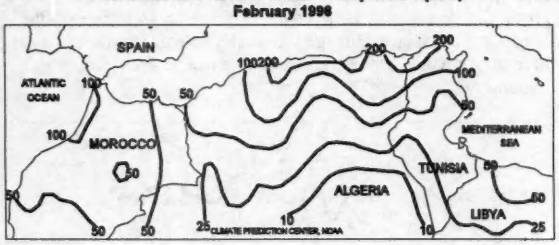


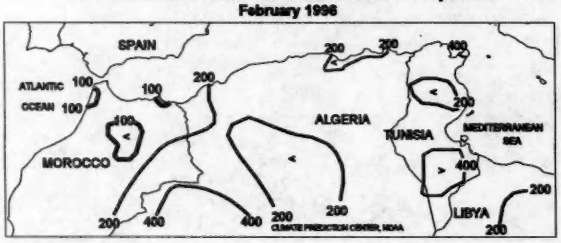


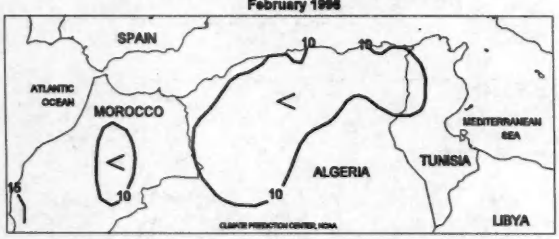


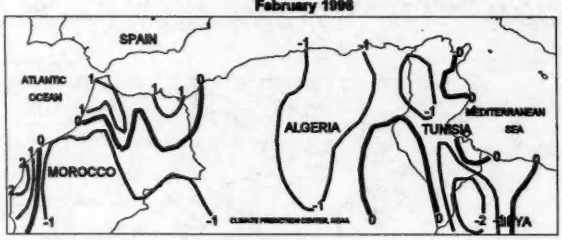
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

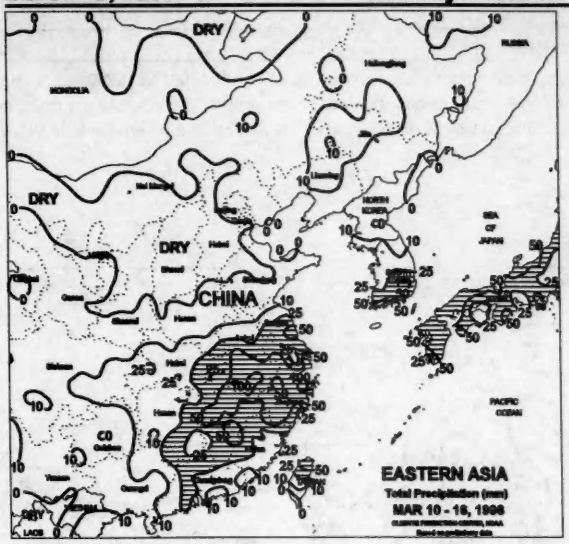
Widespread moderate to heavy rain (26-50 mm, with local amounts in excess of 60 mm) fell over winter grain areas in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. The precipitation in these areas maintained adequate to abundant moisture for winter grains in or nearing the heading stage. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal over the region, slowing crop development. In February, above-normal precipitation covered Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, providing favorable moisture for winter grains in the vegetative stage.





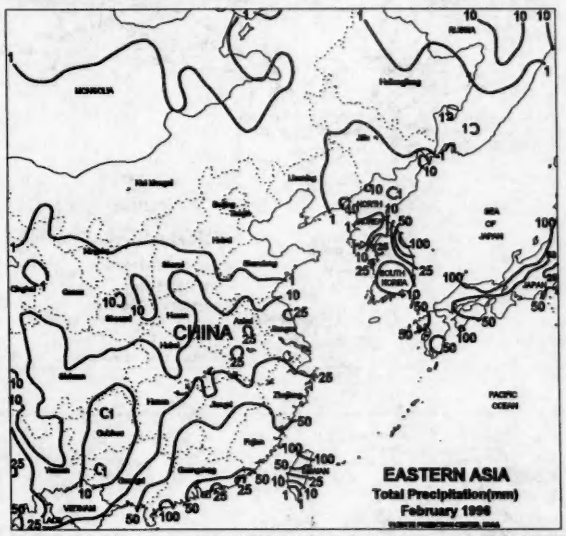


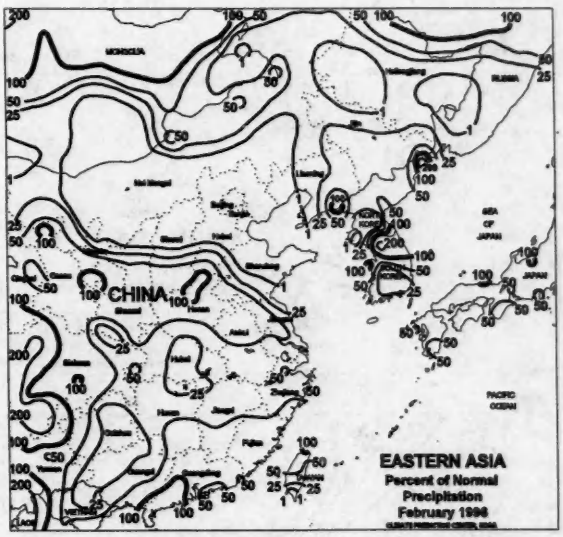


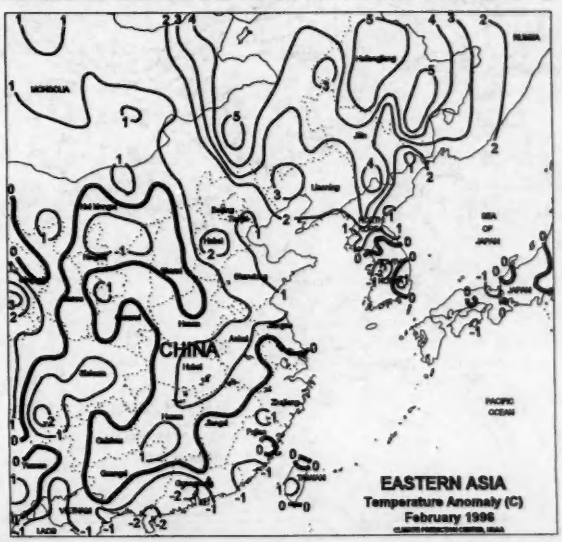


EASTERN ASIA

Widespread rain (10-35 mm) reached from the southern North China Plain southward into southern China. Heavier rainfall (50 to 100 mm) was concentrated in the lower Yangtze Valley. The rain aided vegetative winter wheat and boosted irrigation supplies for transplanted early double-crop rice. Across the rest of the North China Plain, seasonably dry weather prevailed as winter wheat started to break dormancy. In February, precipitation averaged near to below normal across the western and southern wheat growing areas (Henan and Anhui westward into Shaanxi). February precipitation averaged less than 50 percent of normal across the Yangtze Valley. Across northern and northeastern China, seasonably dry weather continued in February.

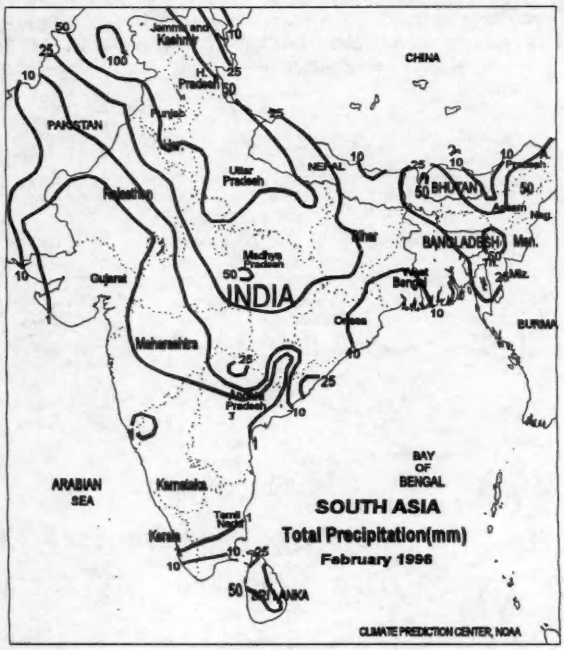


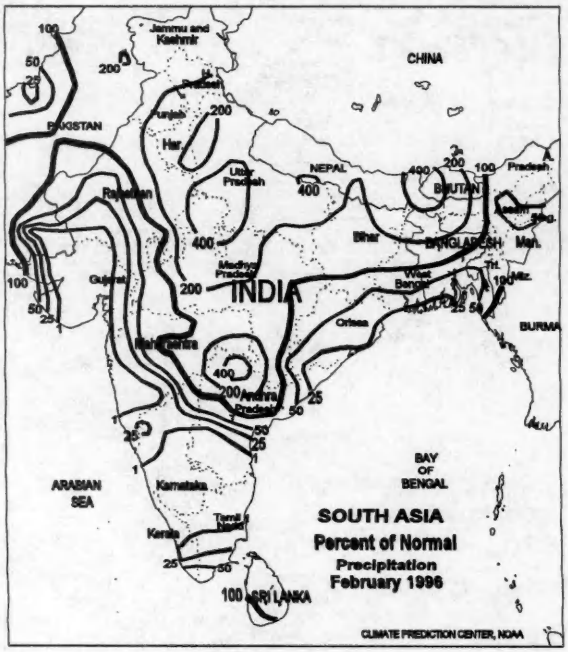


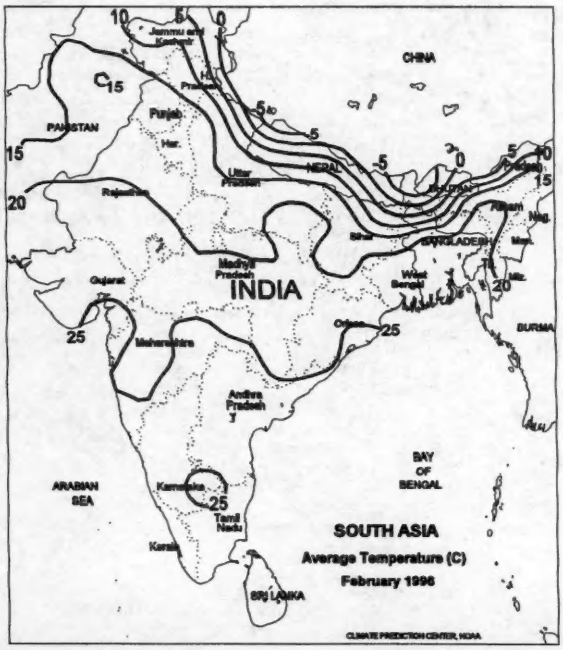


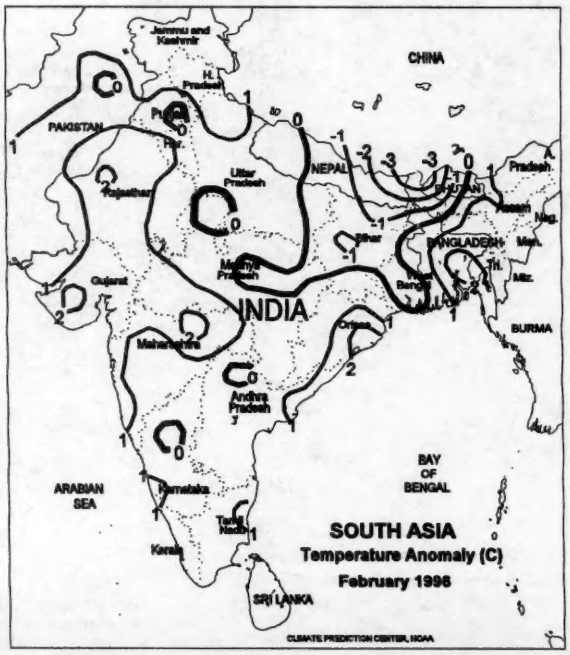
SOUTH ASIA

During February, near- to above-normal rainfall covered India and Pakistan's main winter grain and oilseed areas. Rainfall totaled 25 to 50 mm or more over a broad area from northern Pakistan southeastward into central India, maintaining favorable crop prospects across the region. The rain, spread out over the entire month, was timely for the reproductive and filling phases of development. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in the wettest areas and near to above normal elsewhere.



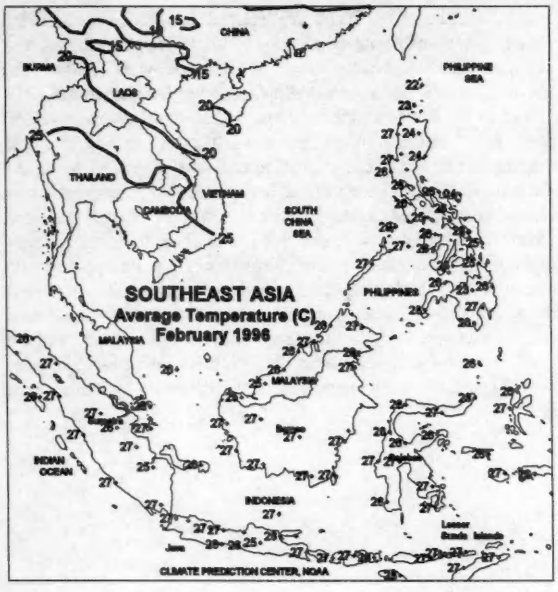




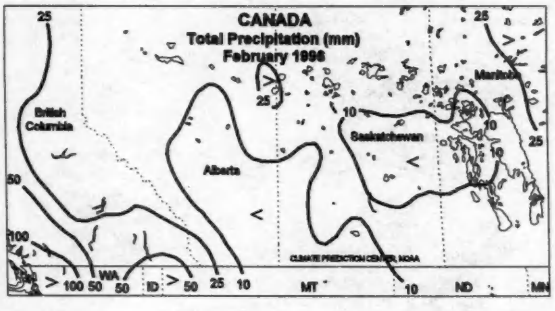


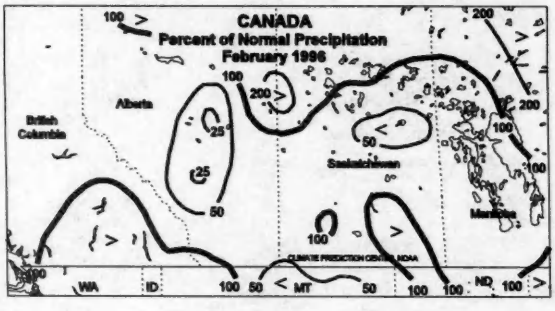
SOUTHEAST ASIA

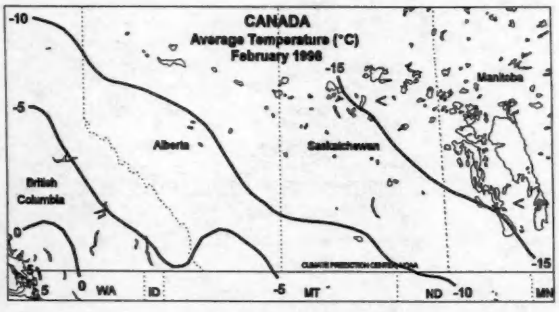
In Java, seasonable showers (30-100 mm) maintained moisture supplies for main-season rice. Moderate showers (10-40 mm) prevailed across the eastern Philippines, while heavier showers (80-130 mm) fell across southern Luzon. Unseasonable showers (20-60 mm) were reported in northeastern Thailand, slowing rice and sugarcane fieldwork, but increasing moisture supplies. Moderate showers (30-80 mm) ended a brief dry spell for oil palm areas across western peninsular Malaysia. However, mostly dry weather (less than 15 mm) continued across the eastern oil palm areas. In February, near- to above-normal rainfall prevailed across the central Philippines, with below-normal rainfall reported elsewhere. Near- to above-normal rainfall boosted irrigation supplies for winter-spring rice across central Vietnam. Rainfall averaged above normal across northern Thailand for the second consecutive month. In Java, near- to above-normal February rainfall increased irrigation supplies for main season rice.

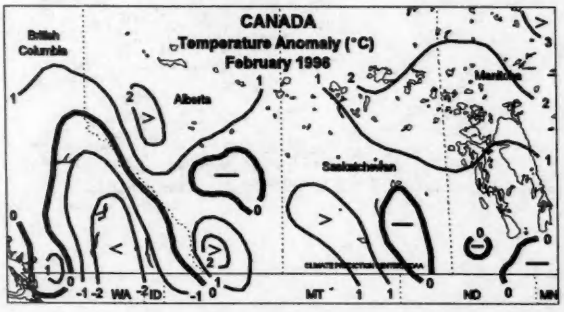

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Average Temperature (C)
February 1996
CHINA
BURMA
LAOS
THAILAND
VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PHILIPPINE SEA
PHILIPPINES
MALAYSIA
INDIAN OCEAN
INDONESIA
Java
Lesser Sunda Islands
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

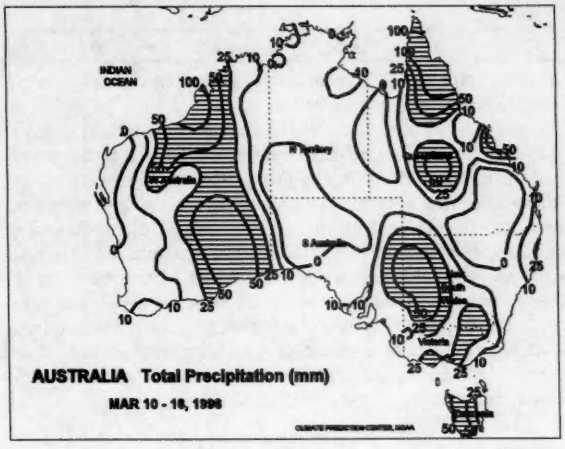
SOUTHEAST ASIA
Temperature Anomaly
February 1996
BURMA
CHINA
LAOS
THAILAND
VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PHILIPPINE SEA
PHILIPPINES
MALAYSIA
Borneo
INDIAN OCEAN
INDONESIA
Java
Lesser Sunda Islands
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

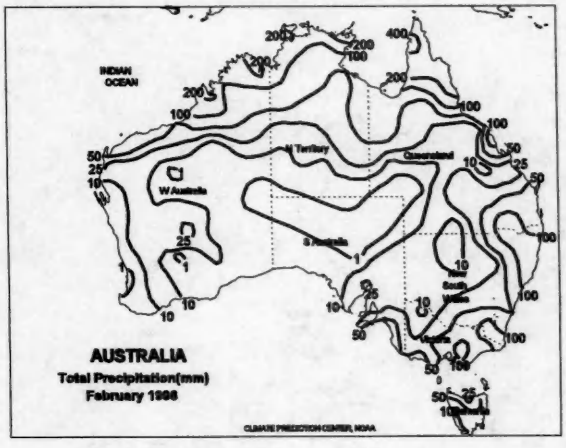

CANADA
Average Temperature (°C)
February 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN

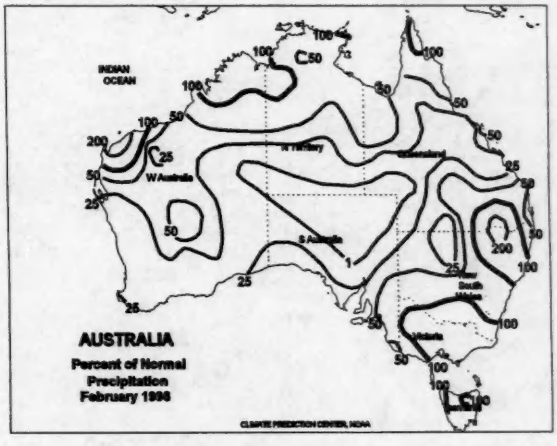

CANADA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN

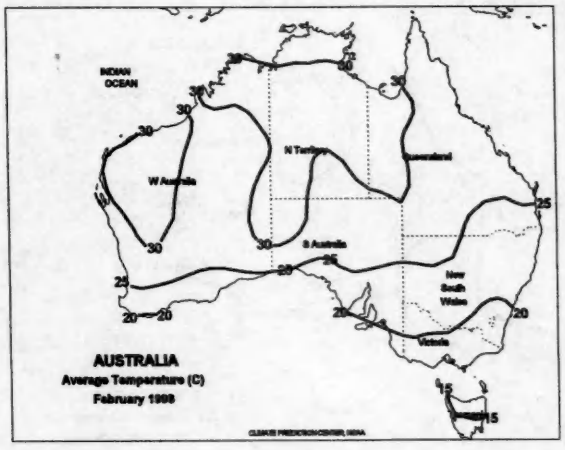


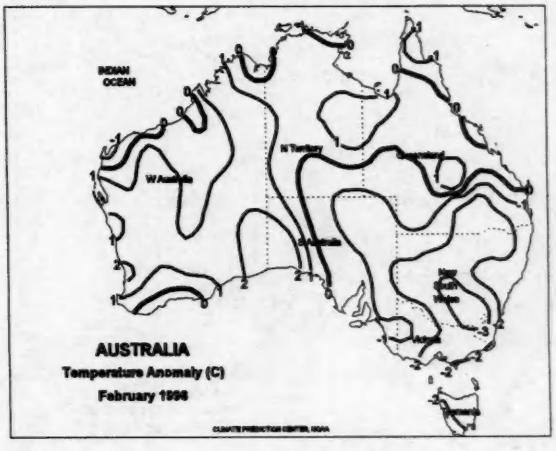
AUSTRALIA

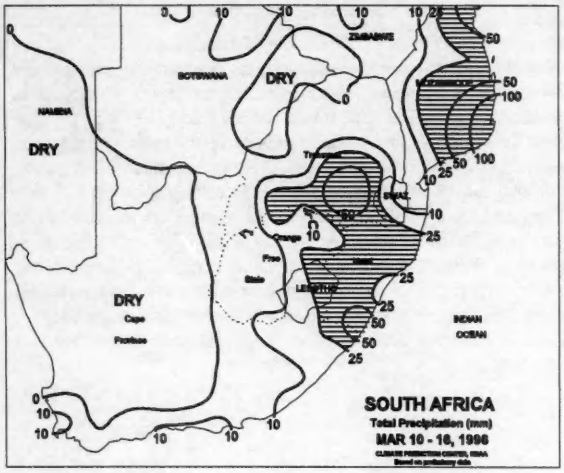
Beneficial rain (10-25 mm, exceeding 50 mm locally) fell in eastern Australia's western pasture areas (western Queensland to southeastern South Australia), providing much-needed moisture. The rain also boosted soil moisture in the southeastern winter grain belt. The rain benefited northern and western sections of the main summer crop region that had been trending dry. However, the heart of the cotton and sorghum areas remained dry for the second consecutive week. During February, rainfall was near to above normal in the main sorghum and cotton areas, as well as sections of the southeastern winter grain belt. The rain came during the first and last weeks of the month. A drying trend persisted in eastern Australia's western pasture areas, but near- to below-normal temperatures reduced evaporative losses. In western Australia, periods of unseasonable heat stressed livestock.





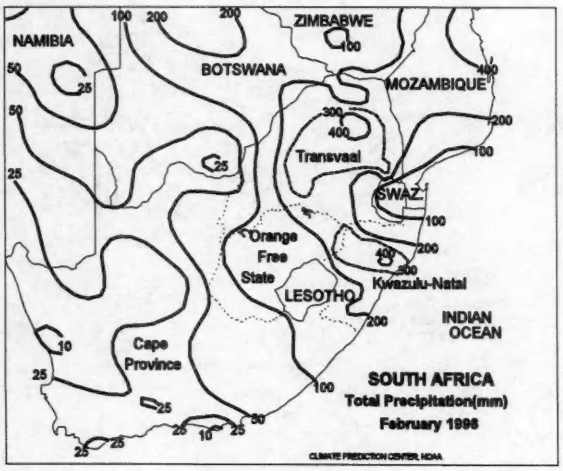


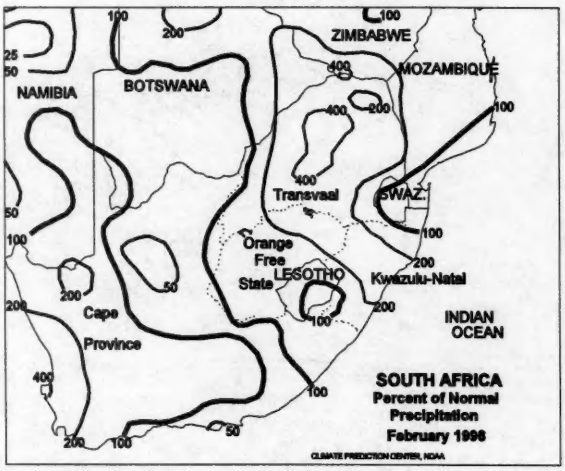


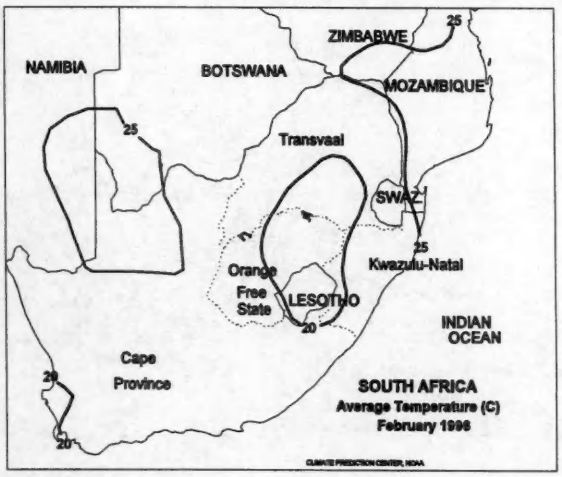


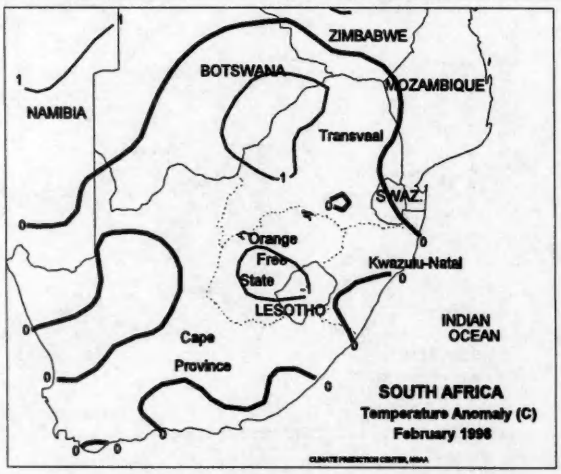
SOUTH AFRICA

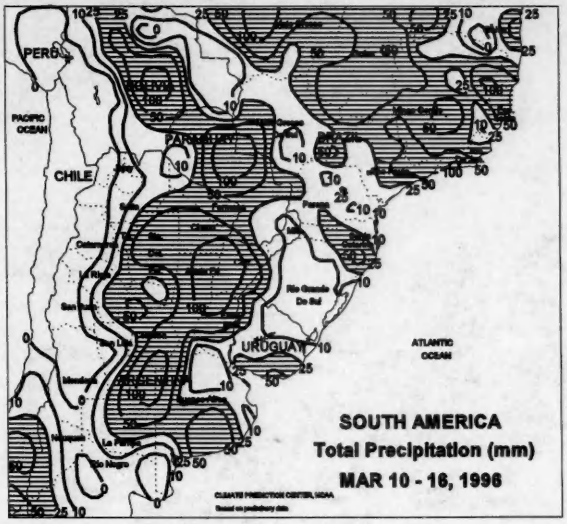
Moderate rain (10-25 mm or more, exceeding 50 mm locally) persisted in the eastern corn belt, raising concern for the quality of filling to maturing corn. In the west, drier, generally warmer weather aided corn growth. During February, frequent rain fell in the eastern half of the corn belt, reflecting this season's trend of unfavorable wetness. In fact, February marked the fifth consecutive month of near- to above-normal rainfall in the east. In mid-February, inundating rain (100-200 mm or more weekly accumulations) caused some additional flooding in the areas around Johannesburg and in coastal sugarcane areas. Farther west, monthly rainfall was near normal, with periodic dryness throughout the month favoring crop development. February temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal, with only brief periods of heat stress recorded on the western fringe of the corn belt.





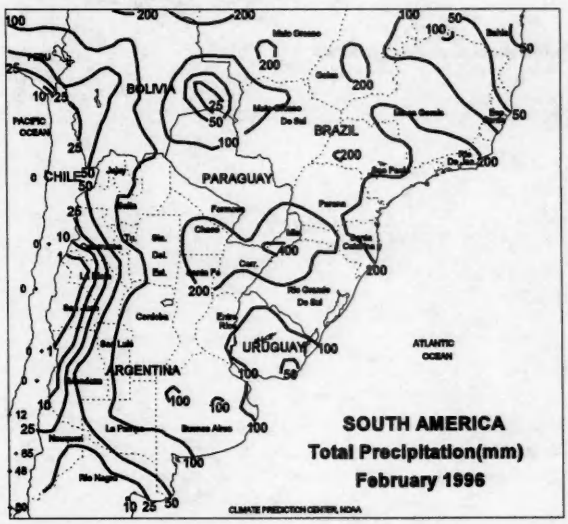


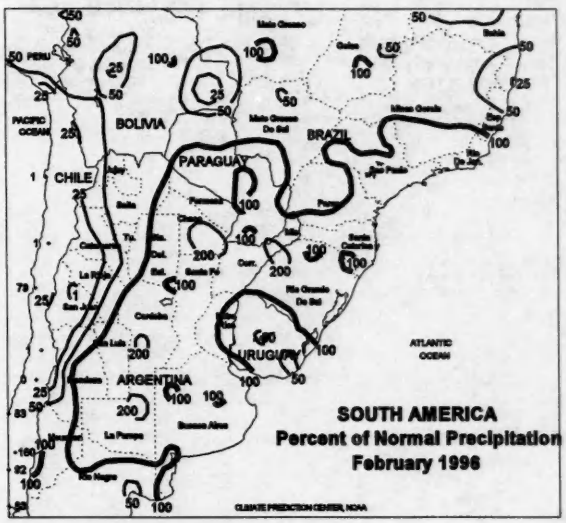


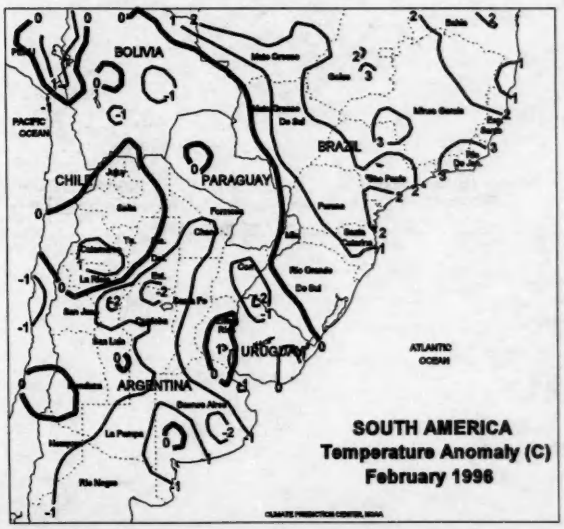


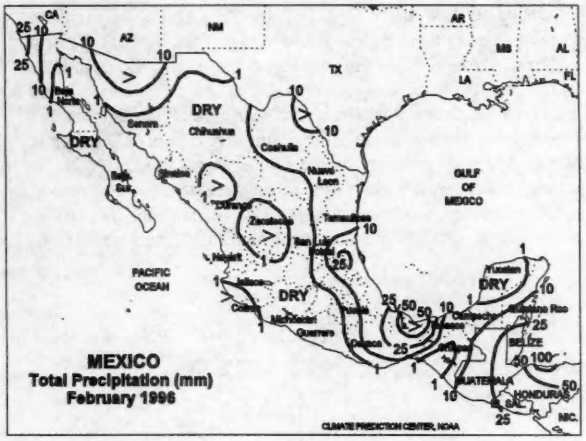
SOUTH AMERICA

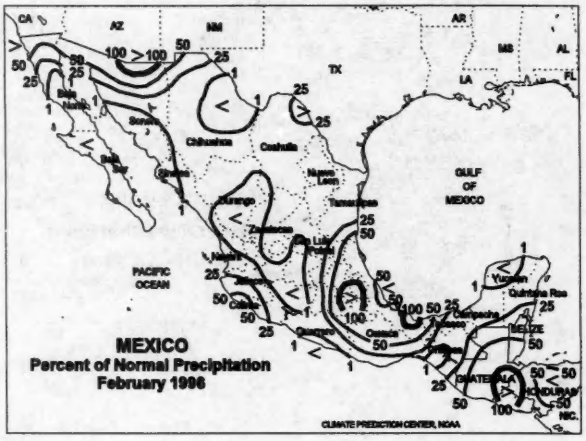
Mostly widespread showers (25-70 mm, with over 100 mm across southern Cordoba and northern La Pampa) covered central Argentina, aiding immature soybeans. Lesser amounts (less than 10 mm) were reported across extreme southeastern Santa Fe and northeastern Buenos Aires, reducing soil moisture for soybeans. Widespread rain (25-50 mm) slowed cotton harvesting across northern Argentina. In southern Brazil, moderate to isolated heavy showers (40-100 mm) continued to slow early soybean harvesting across the northern growing areas of Mato Grosso and Goias. Farther south, light to moderate showers (5-20 mm) fell across Parana and Rio Grande do Sul. Showers (25-50 mm) benefited cocoa and coffee across Bahia and Espirito Santo. In February, near-normal rainfall favored reproductive soybeans and filling corn across central Argentina. Monthly temperatures across the region averaged slightly below normal, reducing crop water use. In southern Brazil, above-normal rainfall favored soybeans across Rio Grande do Sul, while below-normal rainfall across the north aided maturing soybeans.

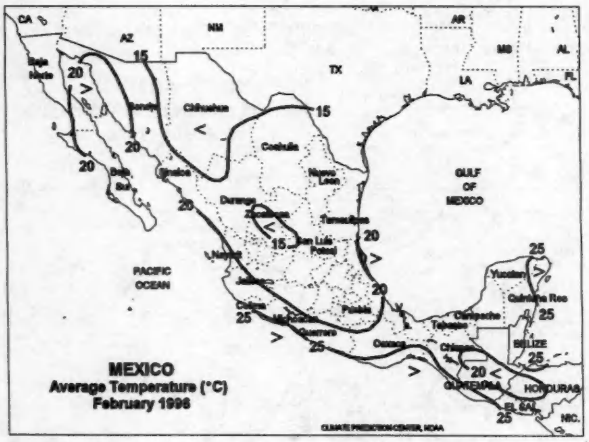


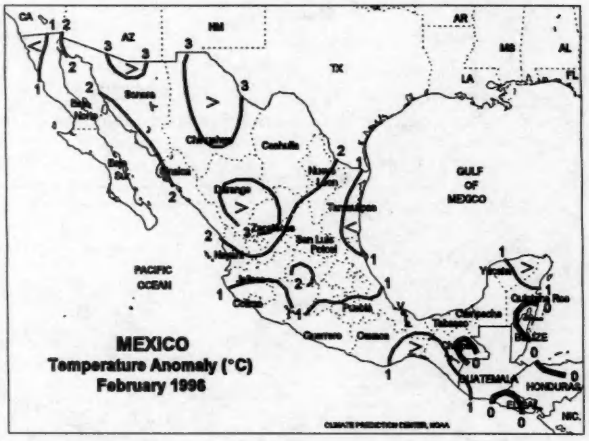





MEXICO
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 1996
DRY
DRY
DRY
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Average Temperature (°C)
February 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

South African Crop Weather Update

South Africa remains mired in what is by far its wettest season in recent memory (see *WWCB*, Vol. 83, No. 9). Although March is a time for seasonal drying, sections of the corn belt and coastal sugarcane regions continued unusually wet through the first 2 weeks of the month. Overall, crop expectations are high due to the abundant moisture, but questions linger about the total effect of excessive moisture and below-normal temperatures on the quality and yield potential of the nation's drought-resistent varieties. The following is a summary of the 1995/96 growing season to date.

Moisture at planting time (October through December) was adequate to abundant across the region. In the western corn belt, timely October rain was followed by periodic heavy rains in mid-November and early December. Overall conditions were favorable for emergence and establishment. Farther east, normal rains fell early in the planting season, but major crop areas began receiving unusually heavy rainfall beginning about mid-November (fig. 1). That trend of unseasonable wetness and coolness persisted in this region into early March, with seasonal rainfall accumulating at unprecedented levels (fig. 2). Growing conditions improved briefly in early February as the crop was advancing through reproduction. However, this short dry spell was broken after about 10 days by one of the wettest weeks of the season. Hardest hit by the inundation (100-200 mm or greater, from February 11 to 17) was the area around Johannesburg (Gauteng Province) in the eastern corn belt, and local areas stretching southeastward into southern Kwazulu-Natal's sugarcane areas. Last season, early-season dryness, most severe in the west, resulted in widespread planting delays (nationally, about 25 percent of the total crop was reportedly planted in January).

On March 12, 1996, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture raised its corn production estimate to 10 million metric tons (mmt), reflecting the current favorable prospects due to abundant rainfall. A 10 mmt crop would be both above normal and considerably greater than last season's drought-reduced crop (4.65 mmt). A crop of this size will make South Africa a net exporter this season. To maintain high yield prospects and ensure good quality, the corn belt needs a few more weeks of warm, preferably dry weather. Despite near- to below-normal temperatures almost weekly since mid-November, growing degree day analysis puts the crop only about 1 week behind in development. In fact, lack of heat stress aided crop development in the typically arid western corn belt. Crops planted in mid-November (the peak of planting) are about 120 days into the growing season. Since local maize varieties take 140 to 160 days to mature and the first autumn freeze (where applicable) is 6 to 8 weeks away, being slightly behind in development poses no immediate problem to crop development. An early freeze (early to late April), however, could prematurely end the growing season, potentially affecting quality and yields.

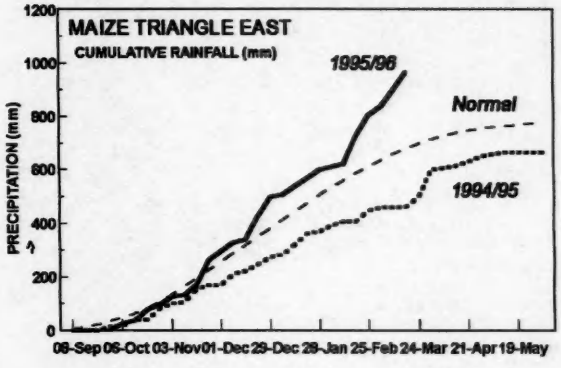


Figure 1

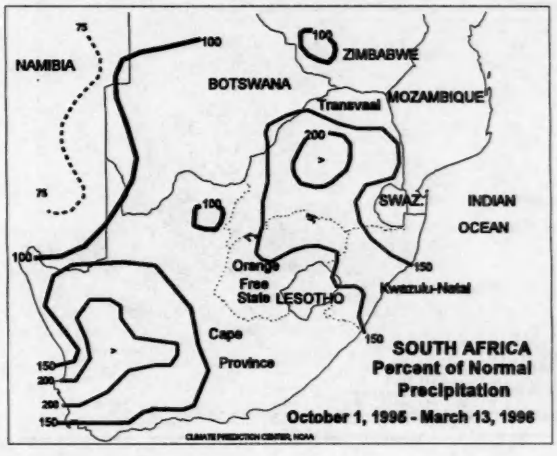


Figure 2

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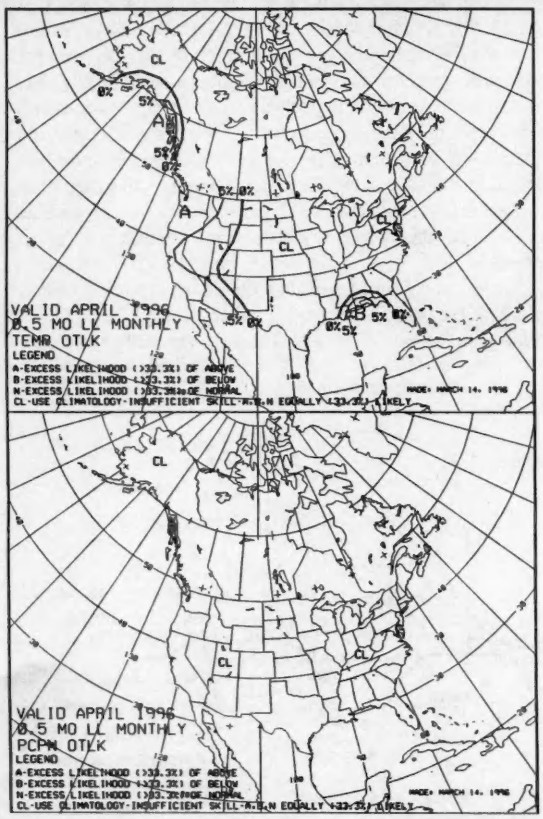

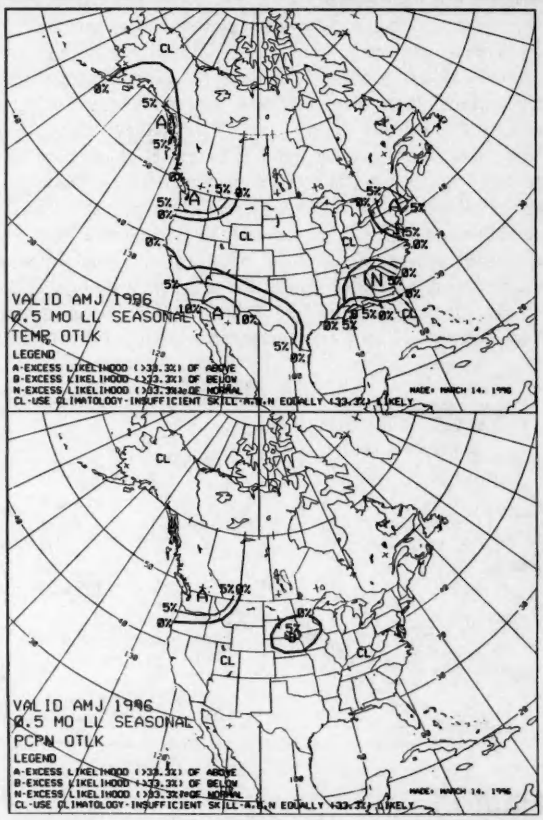

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